

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming



Silver fox and mutation fox pelts are moving in New York although not in great volume. Gimbell's, one of the largest stores, recently advertised an offering of platinum and silver fox jackets and cape stoles at \$131.00. This price sold quite a large number. The promotion was sparked by a full page tabloid size ad with copy reading, "Gimbell's eagle-eyed comparison shoppers have scoured the town and nobody beats Gimbell's low price for frosty silver and smoky blue platinum jackets like these." I. J. Fox, biggest handler of furs in the United States, with a dozen or more stores in the largest cities, features mink at \$12.95 and \$25.00 per skin. They also show models wearing white face silver fox shawl collar and cloth coat priced at \$88.00, others with silver fox trimming and platinum. Fox fur trimmed coats are having quite a vogue in other stores throughout the United States, in fact the trimming trade is the best but we have for using up the surplus pelts still unsold.

The Hudson's Bay Company auction in London this week which included 20,000 silver and mutation fox, report large quantities unsold because of the high reserve prices placed on the pelts. It is assumed that a great many of these pelts are of Norwegian or Swedish origin and are possibly priced at figures prevailing in Norway and Sweden, which uses mink as a medium of exchange. From other sources we learn that a considerable number of pelts have been sold in London in recent weeks by private treaty and these include what would call three-quarter silvers and the better types of platinum and pearl platinum.

The handlers of mouton (processed lamb) coats in the United States are putting up a big kick about the federal excise tax which is 20% on every type of furs except fur trimmed coats or garments. They say that this tax and the high cost of living has given them usually strong competition. They have been sensing this for some time but until recent weeks they had no idea that the fur trimmed coat would offer such big competition. A spokesman for them remarks — "We are up against a tough thing. When a woman can walk into a store, look at a fine fur trimmed coat for \$200 without tax, and then see a mouton coat for the same price but with a \$40. extra tax." From our viewpoint the tax has been helpful in using up foxes for trimming purposes but it has the opposite effect when they are sold as capes or jackets, then the 20% tax is exacted.

L. L. Berger, Inc., one of the most up to date stores in Buffalo, N. Y., recently considered the interest last week in silver fox jackets with a special sale. "These are the biggest silver fox buys we can ever remember," said the store in launching the promotion "Custom-made like the silver fox jackets at \$225, and the white fox jackets at \$250. A special group of silver fox jackets were shown at \$165." Another interesting feature of the promotion was a collection of platinum fox jackets at \$265. The store explained that a few years ago a coat of this precious fur would have sold for many thousands of dollars because of the scarcity of pelts. Now because the new breeding methods have increased their number you, too, can wear this exquisite fur at a fraction of its former cost.

Situation mink production in Denmark has been stepped up and a large crop is expected this season. However, it is reported that most of the animals will be kept for breeding, leaving about 90,000 pelts to be marketed. It is only a few years since the Danes took up the breeding of mink but with their well known industry and care they have made the rapid strides as seen above.

We note where they had a fox and mink show in connection with the Wisconsin State Centennial Exposition, Milwaukee, August 26-29. There seemed to be quite a large number of entries in the mink sections but not very many in the fox sections. It certainly is very early for a show of that kind and we would imagine a great many of the pelts would go off-color before they are prime. Years ago when we fed very heavy of horse meat, foxes would fur up early and the difficulty was to keep them from going off-color before the pelt became prime. Now the breeders have changed their methods and have cut down the quantities of horse meat, substituting tripe and eventually

having their protein content much lower than in the days of old. The result is that off-color pelts are not nearly as numerous as they formerly were.

Of course another factor that caused off-color pelts in the old days of the open pens was hookworm, and unless a rancher dosed several times for it, in some localities there was no trouble. Then again the fall rains such as we are having recently, and the muddy soil, had its effect on the pelt making it a difficult problem for all ranchers. Nevertheless there were those who seemed to meet the difficulties and came up every year with a superior line of pelts.

Word is coming in now of the effects of the heat wave which occurred in Ontario and also in Michigan and other states of the U. S. A. during last August. Various estimates are given but we understand the fat figure would be about 10 per cent of the production of the ranch affected. This is not expected to be a factor of very great moment in relation to the total production of the United States and Canada for the season of 1945. A good guess is that it will total anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent greater than in 1947.

The operator of a silver fox farm in Massachusetts wrote to the government claiming that the noise of a nearby sawmill working on a government contract had cut down his income because his foxes were not reproducing. "The foxes cannot stand the sight of each other with all that noise going on," he wrote. An investigation was made by the government accounting office and the claim was disallowed as no work on government orders. During the late war various operators of mink and fox ranches throughout the United States claimed and were paid for damages resulting to the production of their ranches by low flying aircraft. We do not know of any claims having been made for similar happenings in this country, but we do know of a ranch which lost very heavily when the airport was put in operation in the Spring of 1940 at Charlottetown.

Six combined fox and mink shows are advertised to take place in the United States during November. The largest will be the 1945 Michigan-Ohio International Live Fox and Mink Show which will be held in Detroit, Michigan, November 23-26. It is expected that a number of Ontario fox and mink breeders will exhibit there. Some years ago they were among the largest winners in the fox classes. The Americans, however, have made tremendous strides in the production of mink and it would be almost too much to expect that the Canadians could head the lists in mink except possibly in standard types.

The Russian government was the top supplier of furs to the United States in May, while Canada held first place among other customers, \$5,074,378 worth of furs were imported into the United States from May through the Soviet Union, and it was the major portion of a total of \$7,601,836 worth of all items taken from that country. The trouble in Canada is that too many outside furs have been brought in by dealers and handlers. They have clogged the market and in order to get rid of them tremendous efforts are being made. Many of the furs are not attractive either in coloring or in quality, but salesmanship and advertising is used to foist them on the public. This tremendous importation is one of the principal reasons why silver fox and its mutation is languishing in demand in Canada and the United States. Had the government acquiesced in the demand made on them to omit ranch and its mutation from the vision of the excise tax and sales tax it would have meant all the difference in the world to the breeders of these furs. The opposition, however, from the handlers in the fox sections. It certainly is very early for a show of that kind and we would imagine a great many of the pelts would go off-color before they are prime. Years ago when we fed very heavy of horse meat, foxes would fur up early and the difficulty was to keep them from going off-color before the pelt became prime. Now the breeders have changed their methods and have cut down the quantities of horse meat, substituting tripe and eventually



Scout News and Notices

On Wednesday evening, September 30th, the S. M. arrived at the Troop Hall puffing and blowing, only to find sitting there cool (dry) and calm a very welcome visitor—the Executive Commissioner, Walter LePage—"Hawkeye". The meeting was opened by the S. M. with the Bat Patrol under

P. L. Beaton getting the nod, for winning the flag. During the instruction period "Hawkeye" gave an excellent talk on the Pathfinder's Badge to all the Troop. He explained to them the necessity for learning very thoroughly the requirements for the badge. It is important that every Scout, if he is to be an asset to his community, should know where the fire station, hospital, fire hydrants, etc. are. The thanks of the Troop is extended to "Hawkeye" for his instruction and interest. We hope to see him again soon. To us he is always a welcome visitor.

On Wednesday, October 7th, during Fire Prevention Week, the Troop marched over to the hall where Mr. Frizzell gave the boys a very interesting talk on and display of fire fighting equipment. The Scouts were allowed to look over all the engines and examine the equipment. By the gleam in some of the Scouts' eyes we think some of them will make good firemen even if it is just to drive the very big machines. The Troop is very much indebted to Mr. Frizzell for his interest and tolerance. Thanks, Mr. Frizzell.

On Wednesday, September 14th, a very special event took place—a sort of a camp fire reunion. "Red Pine" (Sterling to all others) was present to act as Chief Inspector and camp fire leader. After inspection the Troop gathered around the Cub's Moon and the grand old songs of camp were sung!!! Just thanks to "Red Pine". There is a rumour going around he may be an assistant to the S. M.—seems to be some difficulty over salary. The S. M. offers \$5,000.00 a year but Red Pine will only take \$7,999.00. Oh, well, there are others?!!!

An event of importance has taken place recently and that is the arrival of Plaid Neckchiefs for the Troop. The tartan is the Royal Stuart. The one made so far looks lovely and goes well with the green shirt. The owner is quite pleased. We hope to have the rest of the neck pieces ready for this Wednesday or as soon as the maker (Mrs. Anderson) turns them out.

Coming events for the 14th:— Joint meeting with the 1st Charlottetown Scouts acting as servers and

ushers at the Laymen's Supper—Tuesday, 21st. Camp reunion with the 3rd Charlottetown. Apple Day, November 6th—bigger than ever. A fully uniformed Troop next week, shorts included. First Aid talk by Mrs. Cudmore. Course in Fireman's Badge to start soon. If any other Scouts are interested consult S. M. Anderson of the 14th. Objective—10 King's Scouts. Yours in Scouting, Beaver.

SCOUTERS' CLUB The regular monthly meeting of the Charlottetown Scouters' Club was held at the Kirk Hall on Tuesday last. The meeting was presided over by Abe Zakem and George Anderson.

Many routine matters were discussed and present indications point to a very successful Boy Scout concert, which is to be put on some time during Boy Scout-Girl Guide Week. This concert will be the first one since before the war. It is felt by all Scouters that it will be a step in the right direction in the field of public relations

and a lot of fun and work for the Cubs and Scouts. A scavenger hunt which was scheduled for the evening was postponed on account of rain. Instead of this a stunt night was taken part in by everybody. The judges, S. Walker and M. Peake awarded the prizes to Florine Evans and Kyle Landrigan. We really think that Mr. Parent's display was runner-up par excellence. At the conclusion of the meeting everybody was driven out to Mr. and Mrs. Parent's home to partake of a delicious lunch.

Secretary, G. Anderson. BEAVER VISITS Your scribe visited the 1st Pack a few weeks ago and was glad to see Vince King back in action. By the looks of this Pack, under Cubmaster Frances MacMillan and Baloo—Vince King, they are going places. Take note other Packs.

On Thanksgiving Day the 1st Charlottetown Troop held a troop hike, ten boys came along. The enthusiasm displayed by these Scouts augurs well for the future.

Keep up the good work Abe, Elmer and Frank. Rumor has it that the 1st Parkdale Troop is being re-organized. I hope to visit them soon, so in the meantime best of luck and Good Scouting. THE KIRK PACK The Thanksgiving Monday meeting of the Pack was well attended in spite of the holiday. The Pack went in for Test Work and with the present staff of Akela, Baloo, Grey Wolf and Lean Wolf, we are able to have four classes going at the same time and accomplish quite a bit of work. Two New Chums, Charlie Walton and Wendy Cox were welcomed to the Pack.

At the last Grand Howl, Sixty Peter MacNutt and Cub Earle Warren were presented with their Collector's Badge. Several other Cubs are working on their Badge and no doubt further presentations will be made. The above Cubs earned their Collector's Badge with Match Book collections. Earle Warren's being very good, with Match Books from far off places. Peter MacNutt is just starting, but already has quite a variety.

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THIS CHILD COULD BE YOURS . . . There are many like her throughout Canada who die for the want of adequate blood transfusion facilities. Not only children but people of all ages die for the same reason. IT COULD HAPPEN HERE but you can help prevent it by registering as a voluntary blood donor when the canvasser calls at your home. THIS CHILD LIVED BECAUSE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF WHOLE BLOOD AND PLASMA THROUGH THE CANADIAN RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE.

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YOU... CAN SAVE A LIFE....

HOW?

Yours is the privilege of being a partner in the greatest co-operative humanitarian service in the world. The success of the CANADIAN RED CROSS FREE BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE depends upon every citizen recognizing his or her personal responsibility to register as THIS (NEXT) WEEK, OCTOBER 18 to 23 as a voluntary blood donor.

If YOU are between the ages of 18 and 65, enjoying normal health, YOU can be a voluntary blood donor. You will only be asked to donate blood twice each year.

There is no pain or discomfort experienced in giving blood and it only takes a few minutes of your time. Diet is no longer necessary.

WHY?

To save the lives of the sick and injured in the hospitals of this Province.

The Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, soon to begin operations in Prince Edward Island, will provide whole blood, plasma and sterile transfusion equipment to the hospitals without charge. Patients requiring blood transfusions will receive them COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE. There will be no charge for administering the transfusion.

THIS IS YOUR SERVICE BUT IT CANNOT OPERATE WITHOUT YOUR HELP. YOUR WILLINGNESS TO REGISTER AS A VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONOR CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH TO SOMEONE.

BLOOD DONOR WEEK OCTOBER 18th to 23rd

Stewart and Roop Mink Farms 202 Fitzroy St., Charlottetown, P.E.I. 1403L

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