

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Report of Annual Meeting Canadian National S. F. S. A.

The 28th. annual meeting of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association was held in the Chateau Laurier Ottawa commencing Monday morning June 14th. and concluding on Tuesday afternoon at six o'clock. President H. A. Doraty presided. Directors and members were present from all the Provinces of Canada with the exception of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia where abnormal conditions prevented their attendance. The members were warmly welcomed the morning of the opening day by Alderman L. L. Coulter, representing Mayor Stawley Lewis of Ottawa.

The report of the Directors showed a total of 274 regular members and 48 associate members, with 972 new foxes registered during the past year. Prince Edward Island had the largest number of members—119, Ontario was next with 73, Quebec 37 and New Brunswick 18. Prince Edward Island also led with registrations, the total being 1718 as against 1147 for Ontario, 927 for Quebec, 572 for Manitoba, 226 for New Brunswick, 86 for Nova Scotia and smaller numbers for the other provinces. For this year 195 ranch statements have been accepted listing 6079 registered males and 7491 female foxes. This is a decline of ap-

proximately 30 p. c. from the previous year. The provincial organizations of the province of Ontario, P. E. I., New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta made applications for and received the grants offered by the Association to assist in promoting live fox shows. The financial statement as of October 31st, 1947, showed a deficit of \$3,241.56 but a credit due of the Association reduced the deficit to \$1,975.71.

The report of the Marketing Department for 1947-48 season showed that they had many problems to deal with that required very close attention due to import and export restrictions, restricted markets in both number and size, high taxation and competition from similar commodities dumped on the market with little regard for values. This caused surpluses to develop and price structures to fall. As a result the industry is undergoing the most severe test in its history. It will require extensive and persistent study by production and marketing groups to regain and retain the vital position it has held in the economy of our country.

The agricultural products co-operative marketing act was again put into effect and this promoted the marketing of the fox pelt group with a degree of orderliness which would otherwise have been impossible. Results to date show the wisdom of having this act applied also to the 1948-49 crop. With few exceptions consignors to the Association's marketing department applied to have their 1947-48 crop marketed through this government marketing act. This made it possible to forward substantial initial payments to shippers as soon as grading of the pelts could be completed. The officials and staff worked long and strenuously in order to get the necessary work completed so that the payments could be made with the least possible delay. Pelt receipts for the season under review to June 1st, totalled 5,890 received from 123 shippers. This figure constitutes a record for the organization in total receipts. Due to the restricted demand and the committee's thanks total receipts are not yet sold although substantial clearances have been made both by auction and private treaty sales. Pelt show collections from the provinces of Ontario and Prince Edward Island were again consigned to our marketing department. Through the marketing department letter shippers have been kept informed of auction sale results, market conditions and other items of special interest to them. The financial statement of the marketing department was submitted in detail showing clearly the various operations connected with the handling of over 50,000 pelts.

The above report was followed by the submission of the report of the Special Committee consisting of Chairman D. O. Stewart, George A. Callbeck, P. G. Clark, A. M. Doyle and J. J. McCague. This committee had a great deal of intensive work which included obtaining an agreement with the Minister of Agriculture providing for initial payments to fox ranchers based on the average for each grade for the last three preceding years. Their efforts were fully set forth in the report and the committee's thanks was expressed to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, his deputy Dr. Barton, Mr. A. M. Shaw, Director of Marketing Services and Mr. W. M. Ritchie, Chief of Fur Inspection and Fur Grading Services for their co-operation and assistance in establishing a basis of initial payments by grades leading up to a workable agreement.

The committee also dealt with fox diseases and had interviews with Dr. Charles Mitchell, Dominion animal pathologist, at his research station in Hull, and again talked over problems with him. Dr. Mitchell favors continuing such research work and expects to establish this year a small colony of experimental foxes in connection with the institute and as soon as circumstances permit will go for-

ward with further research work. The committee feels that there should be continuous research work going on at all times at the institute in regard to diseases of fur bearing animals.

Efforts were again made with the Minister of Finance, Hon. Mr. Abbott, to have him remove the excise tax on ranch raised furs, but as ranchers know after having perused the recent budget, these were ignored. Special work was undertaken for the board of directors by chairman D. O. Stewart in regard to the status of this Association in the income tax department and was successfully concluded. The Department has also made a ruling that losses on fur ranching operations may be offset against gains on other secondary income such as investment income. Such losses, however, are not allowed to be offset against gains on a taxpayer's principal income. If ranching is his principal source of income any loss on such could not be offset against gains on secondary income.

Fur advertising received a great deal of attention by this committee who were in association with the Canadian fur advertising committee. Space was reserved at both the International Fur and Leather Fair at Basle, Switzerland and the International Trade Fair recently held in Toronto. Chairman D. O. Stewart and Mr. P. G. Clark procured the necessary number of select skins of various types and had them manufactured into fox garments for display at these fairs. These garments were most attractive and received much favorable interest and comment both in Switzerland and Toronto. In addition to the fox garments and fox furs various types of minks were displayed and attractive literature distributed. It is hoped to have the fox garments and some attractive mink garments on display during the International Fur Conference to be held in Charlottetown in July. The amount requested from ranchers towards the work of the advertising committee was one percent of the proceeds of their pelts. Quite a generous response was received and most ranchers contributed but the committee feels that in order to do its best work it should have 100 p. c. co-operation and support from all ranchers as this is definitely the time when everything possible should be done to restore fox furs to their former popularity.

The committee had under consideration for some time the inauguration of an International Fur Conference and chairman D. O. Stewart as its representative, attended a meeting in Montreal in February with the executive secretary of the National Board of Fur Farm Organizations of the U. S. A. and the president of the Dominion Council of Fur Breeders. Out of this meeting was formed a planning committee and it was agreed that because of the fact that Prince Edward Island was the birthplace of the fox industry an effort should be made to have the Province of Prince Edward Island sponsor the inaugural conference. The Premier of Prince Edward Island, J. Walter Jones, very gladly agreed to support this plan and formal invitations were extended under his signature to delegates from other fur producing countries to attend an inaugural conference at Charlottetown July 12-16, 1948. While sufficient time has not elapsed to hear from all the countries invited yet enough replies have been received to warrant the belief the conference will be a successful one. The headquarters will be The Charlottetown Hotel where accommodation has been reserved and every effort will be made by the committee in charge to make this inaugural conference an international event that will be of benefit to fox and fur breeders in all countries. In concluding the report of the Special Committee Chairman D. O. Stewart extended his thanks to all officials of the Department of Agriculture who co-operated with it and to the retiring President and members of the head office staff at Summerside for so willingly giving assistance at all times.

The submission of reports and discussions on same took up the attention of the members on Monday, but there was a pleasant respite that evening when they accepted the invitation of the Ottawa manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Mr. A. G. Morley, on behalf of the Executive Officers of the Head Office of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, to attend a banquet at the Rideau Club. The dinner was quite in accord with the traditions of the Club and Mr. Morley proved himself a delightful host. Seated on his right was Senator Robinson and on his left Mr. H. A. Doraty, President of the Association. Short speeches were made by Senator Robinson, Mr. W. Chester S. McLaughlin, M.P. and Dr.



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E. S. Archibald, Superintendent Experimental Farms. These were discussed with greatest interest and the address and introductions of Mr. Morley added greatly to the pleasure of the evening.

An interesting feature of Tuesday morning's session was the report of W. M. Ritchie, Chief of the Fur Marketing Department, Ottawa. He spoke of his visit to Basle, Switzerland, and the interest created at the International Fur and Leather Show there by the Association's exhibit of fox garments and fox and mink furs. It was generally conceded that Canada's exhibit was the finest of its kind. Norway and Sweden also had exhibits but the Norwegian furs could not compete in quality with Canada's and they did not have any fur garments to exhibit. Sweden had a fairly good collection of foxes with a particularly good quality three-quarter silver, but their mink suffered in comparison with ours. In his opinion the Norwegian foxes that he saw were a very much lower grade than the Canadian tops. He considered that it would be difficult to make an impression on European markets for some time as the barter system prevailed in most of the countries. Mr. Ritchie said he could have sold the exhibits hundreds of times over and people told him they never believed they were such magnificent creations for such beautiful Silver Fox and Mink furs.

The same exhibit was also shown at the International Trade Fair, Toronto. This was open to all types of commodities but there were very few exhibits of furs. Everyone who saw our display said Mr. Ritchie, was struck with its neatness and style and when models walked around wearing the beautiful capes, stoles and other types they drew much admiration. He considered it would be a grand idea to have these exhibits shown in all the principal centres of the Dominion. The trouble is, said he, that very few of our people have seen our really beautiful fox furs.

An interesting speaker was Dr. C. W. MacIntosh of the Research Institute at Hull, who outlined the steps taken in disseminating research and the difficulties met with. Dr. K. W. Wells of the Health of Animals Branch, spoke of his activities and Mr. F. C. Gaspell, Oshawa, chairman of the Records Committee, was introduced and received a warm welcome. Dr. A. H. Kennedy of the Ontario Veterinary College, spoke at length outlining the instruction given to the students there and the efforts to interest them in diseases of fur-bearing animals. He said it was difficult to get young men to take that up as a life work and he believed some extra inducement would have to be made to interest them. Most of the graduates of the college have positions waiting them at good salaries and are not so interested in going into the government service and probably having to continue for a year or two in further studies to acquire the necessary technique to handle problems of the fox and mink rancher. Dr. Kennedy has been of great value to the fur farmers of his province and always extends the services of himself and staff in assisting them with disease problems.

Captain D. C. W. Douglas of the Foreign Trade Service, said he was glad to be present and meet the fur farmers whose problems he had been interesting himself in for some time. His department has trade representatives in Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia and other countries that would be interested in buying furs. He would be glad to give every assistance towards securing markets in the above countries and would work with Mr. W. M. Ritchie and others who could assist him in planning for export. Mr. Gilbert of the Department of Trade and Commerce also spoke briefly. A pleasant diversion occurred when Tom McGill of Pakenham, Ont., oldest fox rancher of that province, arrived. Mr. McGill has been a fur farmer for 37 years and has bred some of the finest foxes and mink in the world. Many here will remember some years ago when he purchased a white-faced silver male from Wellington McNeill for a reputed price of \$1,500.

Several resolutions were passed during the afternoon and committees appointed. That known as the Canadian Fur Advertising Committee will have as members the President of the Association, also Chairman D. O. Stewart, P. G. Clark and George A. Callbeck. A resolution was passed asking for stricter regulations with regard to communicable diseases on fox ranches with a view to preventing their spread to other ranches. Great interest was taken in the address of Dr. E. S. Archibald, Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa. Dr. Archibald spoke of the work done by Experimental Stations and paid a high tribute to Dr. C. K. Gunn of Summerside. He hoped eventually to establish an other station in Ottawa. "We have the land and possibly by next year we will have the station. It is difficult to obtain trained personnel to handle the scientific problems connected with research work, genetics and nutrition. Dr. Archibald spoke in an easy manner with a well modulated voice and made a deep impression on his hearers.

Following Dr. Archibald's address a resolution was passed requesting the government to establish more experimental stations in Canada to deal with fur farming problems. Votes of thanks were tendered to Dr. H. Barton, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. A. M. Shaw, Chief of the Marketing Department of Agriculture, and Mr. W. M. Ritchie, Chief of Fur Grading, also to the Department of Trade and Commerce. The election

of directors to replace those whose terms had expired resulted as follows: Alberta—H. J. Jenkins, Airderyde; Ontario—Dr. W. E. Russell, Kitchener; Quebec—H. A. Doraty, Old Chelsea; New Brunswick—George MacLeod, Black River; Prince Edward Island—Gordon McMillan, Cornwall, Lester Johnson Fortune Bridge, Morrell & Co. C.A. were reappointed auditors.

Following the election of directors the annual meeting concluded and a meeting of directors was held. All proceedings up to this point had been handled by President H. A. Doraty of Old Chelsea, Que., whose tact, fairness and ability made things very pleasant for all. The terms of officers of the preceding year having expired, a new slate of officers was appointed as follows for 1948-49. President, Lt.-Col. D. A. MacKinnon, Charlottetown; Vice President, A. M. Doyle, L.L.B., Winnipeg; Executive Committee—Gordon McMillan, Cornwall; Robert Humphrey, Kensington; George MacLeod, Black River, N. B.; Registration Committee—H. A. Doraty, Old Chelsea, Que.; Dr. W. E. Russell, Kitchener, Ont.; C. B. Sherman, Norton, N. B. Delegates to Canadian National Live Stock Records Board—J. J. McCague, Alliston, Ont.; W. H. C. Ruthven, Alliston, Ont. Representatives to Royal Winter Fair—Lloyd B. Pollock, Dr. W. E. Russell, Fair Committee—Ed Burleigh, Summerside, Walter Lusby, Amherst, Manager Fur Marketing Department Committee—George A. Callbeck, Summerside.

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Fox and Fur Magazine was continued as the official organ of the Association and Mr. Jerry Donovan, who was present, was warmly congratulated on the excellent work he is doing and the fine magazine he is producing.

Before the Directors adjourned it was the pleasant function of the new President to present to retiring President H. A. Doraty, Old Chelsea, Que., a magnificent silver tray suitably inscribed—From the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, in acknowledgment of valuable services to the Association. Mr. Doraty made a very feeling reply to the very complimentary remarks addressed to him. Mr. Lowell Hancock, a former president of the Association, who had refused to accept a cash grant of \$500, which he requested be set aside for the education of a bright student in disease of fur-bearing animals, was informed that the directors of the Association were having engraved a similar tray to be presented to him. Mr. Hancock has been one of the most active members of the C.N.S.F.B.A.

Pleasing to report was the many nice tributes paid to George A. Callbeck, Manager of the Fur Marketing Department, Thomas D. Carruthers, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, Vernon Matthews, Chief Accountant and the staff for their faithful handling of the Association's affairs during the period when the largest number of pelts handled in ten years and a vast amount of other business was transacted. Invitations were extended by Dr. Archibald to visit the Experimental Farm at Ottawa and quite a number took advantage of it, while others who had arrangements made departed homeward all feeling much brighter and happier from having been together studying the problem and hearing reports of the largest fur farming organization in the world.

We take pleasure in furnishing our mink farmers with the report of the Mutation Mink sale held by the New York Auction Company, New York, June 3-4. The sale brought forth exceptionally keen competition. Spirited bidding existed for all types of Mutation skins, with the result that practically the entire offering of pelts was sold at prices well above the February 26th levels. We append for your information a resume of the average prices realized for the various color phases. Silverblue—Advanced 25 p. c.—Top price, \$78.00; Bottom—\$76.00; 29,327 skins (I & II Quality)—95 p. c. sold—Average—\$41.85. 4,752 skins (Poor Quality & Low Grades)—98 p. c. sold—Average—\$24.67. 34,979 skins—95 p. c. sold—Average for all—\$39.46. Royal Pastel—Advanced 25 p. c.—Top Price—\$70.00. 6,816 skins—99 p. c. sold—Average \$40.77. White—Unchanged—Top Price—\$48.00.

5,402 skins—95 p. c. sold—Average p. c.—Top Price—\$20.00. \$14.78. 12,218 skins—97 p. c. sold—Average \$10.35. Pearlura—No Comparison—Top Price—\$18.00. Blufrost—Advanced 7 p. c.—Top Price—\$19.50. 1,177 skins—80 p. c. sold—Average 9,486 skins—96 per cent sold—Average \$10.52. Royal Koh-I-Nur—Advanced 10

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GROW REAL PRODUCERS WITH FUL-O-PEP CHICK STARTER



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FARMERS DO YOU REQUIRE FARM HELP?

You may be able to obtain the services of one or more of the following types of workers from Displaced Persons' Camps, in Europe: (1) Single male farm labourers (2) Married couples for combined farm and domestic work, (with or without children). (3) Female household workers for farms.

Conditions Of Employment

Conditions on any Canadian farm will be no less favourable than for any other Canadian farm workers. Wages must be in accordance with the prevailing rate for workers engaged in similar farm work, and in any case, single farm workers will not be paid less than \$45.00 per month. The wages for married couples, must be not less than \$45.00 per month in the case of the man, and not less than \$35.00 per month in the case of his wife, providing it is specified that his wife must also work.

Female Household Workers For Farms

Female household workers for farms, are also being brought to Canada from Displaced Persons' Camps in Europe, and these must be paid not less than \$35.00 per month, plus board, lodging and laundry. There are other conditions attached to the employment of female farm workers, particulars of which will be supplied to applicants.

How To Apply

Farmers wishing to apply for any of the above mentioned type of farm workers, may obtain the necessary application forms, by writing to the National Employment Office in Charlottetown or Summerside. It is also pointed out, that all applications are scrutinized before approval, and that it is not guaranteed that each and every farm vacancy will be filled. Living conditions, and accommodations must meet certain standards, before the mark of approval is placed on an application. Displaced workers coming to the Province, sign a yearly contract.

Applications For Specific People

Applications for specifically named people, that is, people in Europe whose name and address a farmer may possess, and wish brought out to this country, must be applied for through the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines & Resources. Farmers wishing to apply for such persons, are advised to write direct to this Department (Mines & Resources) to obtain full information, as to the method of application.

For any information in reference to this advertisement, farmers may write direct to the

National Employment Offices

Charlottetown and Summerside. This ad. is sponsored by the Dominion Provincial Farm Labour Agreement