TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association was held at head office Summerside, Thursday evening April 10th. Applications for annual membership of Dr. George C Bishop, Claude D. Ives, Lloyd E Ramsay, Charles E. Symington and Haye Bros. were accepted, also associate membership of Arthur Smith, Phillas De Guise, John Hebgin, Murray Mills and A E. Reekie. Applications for registration of the following foxes were approved: Malpeque View 79X and 80X; Robinson 95U; 96U; 65V; 68V. Also Monarch Queen 237X. Secretary T.D Carruthers reported that for the months of January and February, 1947, 1,173 registrations, 64 memberships, 174 transfers, 2 names and 1 tattoo had been recorded by the Canadian National Live Stock Records for the Association. A letter was received from J.E. Connolly, chairman of Canadian Fur Farming Advertising committee thanking the Association for the splendid support, co-operation and contribution of $1,000.00 for the advertising fund. A motion was made and passed unanimously that the annual meeting of the Association be held in the Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown, P.E.I on the dates set by the constitution — June 16-17-18

The next auction sale of silver fox, including platina, of the Hudson's Bay Company, London, England, will be held on the second of June and following that a sale will be held on the 22nd of September. Although it is only a comparatively short time since the oldest company in the fur world — or possibly in any other branch of endeavor — (its history dating back to 1670) resumed holding auctions, discontinued during the war, yet each succeeding vendue has drawn greater attendances and disposed of more goods London, because of its knowledge of exchange and the fact that clearings are made there to every country in the world, had prior to the war the commanding position in the sale of furs. It was nothing unusual for Hudson's Bay Company to have 50,000 silver fox pelts catalogued These would find their way after being sold to such far apart countries as the Argentine, Paraguay, Mexico, South Africa, India and all parts of Europe as well as the United States. One of our greatest hopes is that the Hudson's Bay Company will continue to feature silver fox of all types, if so our chance of getting back to the good times of the past will be more certain.

We had a nice letter from Wilfrid L. Todd a few evenings ago and we regret to learn that he has not been in the best of health the past few months, but he hopes, and we trust, that he will soon round to and be his real old self. Wilfrid sold quite a number of pelts on the March 10th sale for self and partners. In fact he sold all he had placed on that sale as he could not see any advantage in holding them because of conditions in the fur trade. The buyers still want mink, Persian lamb, beaver, etc., but are not so interested in the long-haired furs. There was a small attendance the first day of the fox sale and the offering was 20,000 pelts. Mutation pelts attracted about half the buyers who wanted good quality skins but did not wish to pay over $65.00 for the real good platinum pelts. Three lots, large clear skins, medium to light medium in color brought $80.00 a pelt.

For white marked silvers their limit was about $50.00 and they wanted clear pale silver white marked pelts at $40.00. He personally bought a few white marked very good skins with light blue underfur and pale silver, very little white marking, for $37.00. In the U.S. they prefer skins with not much white marking as most of them go into jackets and coats There was an offering of 25 real good quality pearl platinums late in the afternoon and two men who dropped into the sale asked questions about them then bought them. Later he learned the buyers were from South America. They paid $45.00 for most of the pearls with a top of $72.00, but they bought the best specimens. Mr Todd says that he knew a rancher in Connecticut who owned the pearl pelts but had killed them off because someone told him they were not profitable to raise. They were the Colorado type and were really gems.

Now to get to the other side of the pearl picture, he states there were 100 pearl platinum pelts bought back at $14.00 to $22.00. They had been carried over from last year and many of them were bad color due to their having been aged. On the second day when the silvers were offered the number of active buyers had decreased but present among them were representatives of the trimming and cloth coat trade. These men bought four to five thousand cheap silvers ranging in price up to $18.00, and two other buyers bought several hundred silvers from $15.00 to $30.00. There were also quite a number bundles of standard silvers sold from $34.00 to $38.00.

Having decided to get a good glimpse of what was offered in foxes he took a day off while the auctioneer was busy selling other furs, to roam among the standard silvers and found 165 stale pelts that must have been three to five years old but were still in good condition and good color. After considerable difficulty he found that they came from Norway and most of them had been hidden in caves from the Germans during the war and others pelted the year the war ended. They were practically all a bunch sent out from Norway by the Norwegian association and had been offered for sale several times and bid back on account of high limits on them. They were again withdrawn when offered at this sale. The highest price paid for a standard silver was $46.00 for the tops and several of the bundles of these Norwegian pelts were marked at $45.00 to $50.00.

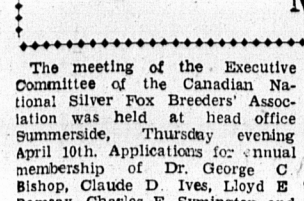
Mr. Todd was greatly struck by the quality of these Norwegian pelts. They were so different he could hardly believe they came from Norway They had more fur volume than any silvers he had seen for years, very heavy necks and shoulders, in fact too much fur for garments that ladies want today, but wonderful for neck scarfs. They were typically the top Prince Edward Island veiled, full and pale silvers and must have been the progeny of some of that good Island stock shipped from this country to Norway in 1926. They reminded him too, of the silvers he judged five or six years ago in Toronto for the Ontario Association.

Among the bundles he looked over were some stale Norwegian platinum pelts. They were all withdrawn but they had been of excellent quality, that was evident as the texture, color and covering was good even though they were very old skins. The Norwegians apparently know how to feed foxes' They feed them cheap and feed a lot of fish but the pelts showed that the nutrition formula was a good one as they had fur colume, lustre, size and color.

Just for curiosity and a desire to find out how they would make up, he placed an offer on the best silvers but as the price they were held for was $70.00 to $80.00, he did not expect they would take the lower marked down. The American Mutation Fox Breeders Association had one of their representatives attend both the New York and Huth sale to protect their pelts, of which they had 13,000 to sell. Most of these pelts were 1946 but some were of 1945 vintage not sold because too high limits had been placed on them. Mr. Todd is afraid that this is a fault with too many ranchers and has a tendency to clutter up the market. His reasoning is probably correct. There is no question that had we been satisfied last year to take lower prices at most of the sales, our Canadian pelts would have been cleaned up and the market started on a fresh basis.

As Mr. Todd says, the auction companies cannot make the market. There was a time not so long ago when the fox rancher could make the market but he failed to do so. Last year the mink men were making their own marke. and mink are selling just as well today as they were selling last Spring, although at lower figures and the reason is that women are buying mink scarfs. Retailers here do not take the trouble to push foxes, the reason being that he finds mink easier to sell and gets a quick turnover at a good profit. Personally, Mr. Todd sold two sets of fox scarfs last week because he took the trouble to show them to two ladies and explain the style effect and beauty Both customers were delighted and stated that the foxes were far more flattering than mink—which it true.....Thanks. Wilfrid, for your very true picture of what is happening in the fur markets. If we had hundreds of men like you taking an interest in silver fox and showing them to customers a great big hole would be created in the surplus now in storage or at auction houses.

It appears to the writer that we will really have to bestir ourselves and a practical suggestion would be to have the Federal Department of Agriculture which is now guaranteeing a price on silver fox pelts, to put several capable and experienced fur men out among the wholesalers and retailers in Canada with a line of advertising and stimulate interest in the purchase of silver fox furs Not only that but all trade agents in South America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, in fact wherever potential buyers exist for silver fox and mutation pelts in the world, grown in Canada, the ideal country for producing furs because of its climate and other natural advantages.



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ANALYSIS OF APRIL, 1947 MINK & SILVER FOX SALES (Lampson, Fraser & Huth, New York)

RANCH MINK. 53% of our first section was sold, unchanged in average from our February, 1947 Auction. There was a good demand throughout the Sale for the large strings of better quality goods. Only 30% of the second section was sold and this section contained mostly poor quality goods, with a considerable quantity of low grades which did not sell too well.

Selected & Good Qualities

Males.

Extra Dark	$24.00 to 38.00
Extra Dark & Dark	10.00 to 29.00
Dark & Dark Brown	16.00 to 22.00

Females.

Extra Dark	$16.00 to 27.00
Extra Dark & Dark	14.00 to 18.50
Dark & Dark Brown	12.50 to 14.00

Ordinary Qualities

Males.

Extra Dark & Dark	$15.00 to 18.00
Dark & Dark Brown	13.00 to 16.00

Females.

Extra Dark & Dark	$11.00 to 13.00
Dark & Dark Brown	8.50 to 11.00

SILVER FOX. Platinum Fox. 40% sold. Skins of good quality and color sold well. Inferior types were neglected. White Marked, only 15% sold. Pale, good colored pelts where sold, were unchanged. Darker types and inferior sorts were neglected Full Silvers, 45% sold Unchanged in average. Best demand for good quality and pale skins There also appeared renewed interest in the fair colored, poor quality, cheaper sorts, possibly for trimming purposes. Off-colored and inferior skins were very difficult to sell Three Quarters and Darks, 76% sold, mostly for export purposes. All the above is compared with our March 17th, 1947 Auction.

Platinum Type	——Up to $70.00
White-Marked	——Up to 49.00
Full Silver	——Up to 40.00

HEATHERDALE SCHOOL

Report for March.

Grade X: 1, Cassie MacLean; 2 Ella Tattrie; 3, Norman Bruce.

Grade VIII: 1, Wendall Bears; 2. Houghton MacLeod; 3, Jim Tattrie.

Grade VII: 1, Gordon Matheson; 2, Joan MacPherson.

Grade VI: 1, Ronnie MacPhee; 2. Catherine Matheson; 3, Flora MacPhee.

Grade V: 1, Ruby MacPhee.

Grade IV: 1, Stanley Bruce; 2. Earle Matheson; 3, Adele MacPherson.

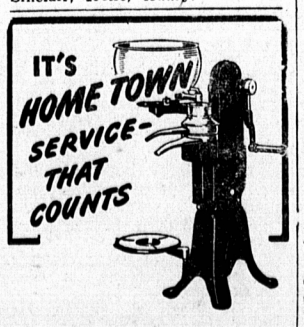
Grade III: 1, George Matheson and George MacLean (equal); 2, Barbara MacPherson.

Grade II: 1, Mary Matheson; 2. Norma MacPherson; 3, Sinclair MacPhee.

Grade I: 1, Audry MacPhee; 2, Irene MacLean.

Perfect Attendance for March: Jack Peardon, Jim Tattrie, Gordon Matheson Flora MacPhee, Annie MacPhee, Audry MacPhee.

Perfect Attendance for February: Jack, Norman, Jim, Flora Ronnie. Donnie, Jimmy, Stanley, Earl, George MacLean, Thelma. Sinclair, Irene, Audry.



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J. M. Ladner
177 KENT STREET

This year get a NEW Renfrew
CREAM SEPARATOR
Also RANGES - TRUCK SCALES - WASHING MACHINES

- NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

THE CASPIAN TERN

The Terns are sea birds resembling the gulls in some particulars, and are classified with them under the family Laridae. The Caspian Tern is the largest of the four species which have occurred in Prince Edward Island. Terns are often called "Sea Swallows".

Caspian Tern A.O.U. 64. Migrant, nests on the north shore of the St Lawrence. Summer plumage, adult: top of the head, glossy black in the breeding season, somewhat crested, neck and mantle pale pearl-gray; underparts white; tail white, short, fork shallow, (about 1.5 inches). Bill stout, tapering, bright red. Winter plumage similar, but head streaked black and white. Immature birds resemble the winter adults but the wings and tail are blotched with blackish. Length of adult bird 21 inches.

The sole record of this bird in the 1916 Teachers' Bulletin, states that a Caspian Tern was taken at Tracadie in 1905 As with many other birds on our list gunners see no advantage in shooting them, so records are few.

Like all the Laridae, terns are light and graceful fliers, and it is noticeable that they fly with the bill pointing downwards. The Caspian Tern feeds on small fishes, but as it is believed to be a disappearing species, it is unlikely to do much harm.

THE POTATO (3)

About the middle of the last century, the potato crop in Ireland failed and a dreadful famine ensued. The Irish people had learned to depend on the tuber almost entirely It was easily cultivated and yielded in such a ratio that one man's labor could feed 40 people The climate was so mild that the Cottars who grew the potatoes, began to leave them in the ground and dig them as needed in the winter. At last a freak winter (1793) partially froze the crop, and a famine resulted. This however was not as disastrous as the famine of 1845 in which 250,000 people perished. England sent across the Irish Channel 3,000,000 cooked meals but transport in Ireland was so undeveloped that many communities could not be reached. As a sequel there was a great migration of Irishmen to America, and one gathers from the pages of history that they blamed Britain for driving them out.

The cause of the famine was the "late blight" a fungord parasite which reached Ireland from the continent, probably from Germany, even then a great potato-growing country.

About this time, analytical chemistry was at its peak and brilliant chemists were everywhere resolving substances into their elements. Of these men, Bacon von Liebig distinguished himself by his researches into the chemistry of foodstuffs It was he who gave to the world "Liebig's Extract of Beef", which I remember as the forerunner of the Oxo, Bovril, etc. of the present age Liebig (pron. Lee-big) manifested great interest in the potato and tested its effect on men and animals. A remark of his well illustrates the value he placed on the tuber as an article of nourishment. "A horse fed on potatoes and compelled to work, loses weight; when he does no work, his weight remains unchanged." He was saying that active muscular exertion produces a bodily loss by "motor change" which the tuber is unable to replace.

What of its effect on the Irish who at that time depended almost entirely on the potato in their diet? Liebig pronounced "Raleigh's dangerous gift" so little endowed with the body-building plastic matter that a man living solely upon potatoes, must consume a very large quantity to keep himself in health and strength (even if he can do the latter) when undergoing anything like exertion " From seven to eight pounds per day is by no means an unusual amount for a laboring Irishman to consume," but analysis showed that ten pounds of potatoes contained no more nutriment than a pound and a half of good wheaten bread; and tests showed that for long-continued exertion, the Irish laborer was a long way behind the Englishman with his wheat and meat or the Scot with his oatmeal. Moreover Liebig remarked that the Irishman's constitution gave way earlier in life, and he was more prone to epidemic diseases.

He sums up—"As an addition to other and more nutritive food, the potato is most valuable; as the sole article of diet, although capable of supporting life, it is a wretched material, and any combination of circumstances which induces or compels a population to depend upon it in too great a degree, must be regarded as most unfortunate."

Analytical and Synthetical

More or less unconsciously, the analytical chemists of the latter half of the nineteenth century were preparing the ground for the work of the synthetical chemists of the twentieth century.

The analysts, it may be repeated, reduced and separated organic or inorganic substances into their ultimate elements. Beginning with the present century there has been an immense juggling, shuffling, and re-building of the separated elements into new substances, or else into re-created old ones,—the work of the synthetics. These modern magi take inexpensive materials and rebuild them into forms which are rare in nature — thereby bringing them within reach of all.

MUSICAL NOTES

The other night I turned on the radio and at once a clear soprano voice flooded the room. It was what I call a "pure" voice, with nothing nasal about the upper register, and nothing throaty in the lower notes. There was just a touch of coloratura, and though I was not acquainted with the melody, I was quite satisfied with the rendering.

But the instrumental accompaniment didn't call up any corresponding enthusiasm. It started out with two blasts of a wind instrument that sounded like the wails of a hungry calf, then flowed on in a succession of overtones and discords, varied with what I believe are called glissando effects, There were a few notes of handbells, for good measure, but the whole underscoring left me cold!

Yet when I thought matters over, I realized that I had been listening to the "new music" that found its first exponent in Richard Wagner. It owes a great deal of its strangeness to its "tonality", i.e. its key relationships. There had been a long period—several centuries, in fact — of fixed tonality, in which the key, if it ever modulated or changed, never wandered far; and rules of harmony became firmly established. Then arose the great classical masters, to be followed by the romanticists. Their aim was to express the beauty of music, in form and harmony. In the nineteenth century a discordant note was struck when Wagner, especially, began to write music with a swiftly shifting tonality, that astonished rather than pleased, by skipping to an entirely unrelated keystone. Wagner's breakaway from the orthodox tonality, has been widening ever since, till composers now write a music that seems to have no definite key, but proceeds in a series of unrelated sounds, such as I heard on the radio. To ears attuned to the music of Mozart, Beethoven, and the long array of great composers, the "new music" seems to be only a succession of discords, symbolic of the distracted minds of the present era.

In the winter one gets time to look over old favorities of song and story. Amongst my impedimenta when I came here, was a collection of old-time songs, "The Globe Song Folios" Nos. 1 and 2, which modestly proclaimed themselves to be "The most popular Collecteion of Songs ever published in the British Empire". There was one of these songs commencing as a solo:—

"Beautiful Isle of the Sea,
Smile on the brow of the waters!
Dear are your mem'ries to me"—

And closing with a four-part refrain—

"Land of the True and the Old,
Home, ever dear unto me.
Fountain of pleasures untold,
Beautiful Isle of the Sea!"

It takes in just one note over the octave, so that it is within everyone's range, and as it is in 9-8 time, it goes with a bit of a swing. The words must have been written by an "Islander abroad" and but for the mention of "mountains," it might have been written for P.E.I.!

A MAGNIFICENT BULB LIST

An esteemed reader, now living in Toronto, has sent me the 1946 bulb catalogue of the "Wayside Gardens" at Mentor, Ohio, U.S.A. It is a wonderful list of Dutch bulbs and flowering shrubs in the most perfect style of color-printing that I've yet seen. (That "most", gentle reader, is no mistake!) Color printing when it first appeared was smudgy and without shading, but here it resembles water-color painting.

At Oglethorpe, Atlanta, Georgia, there is a sealed crypt (or underground room) filled with all kinds of gadgets, etc., representative of Twentieth Century scientific and cultural progress. The Wayside Gardens list for 1940 was chosen to represent the progress of Horticulture The crypt is to be opened at 12 noon on May 28, A.D. 8113!

I have space only to mention the Winter Aconite, depicted in the list. I have this European plant in the rock garden, and in a week or ten days it will be lifting its yellow flower to greet the sun. The tuber is, of course, planted in the fall.

TO SAVE SILVER

NEW DELHI — (CP) — An amendment to the Indian coinage act authorizing the government to issue all coins, including the rupee, in any metal to conserve the silver reserve is being considered here.

Wanted

Buvina Live and Dressed Fowl for the next two or three weeks at our plant on Grafton Street.

Daily Remittances.

The Royal Packing Co.

J. D. JENKINS (Prop.)

Weekly Market Report

SUMMARY

Light runs of cattle were received on western markets and prices as a consequence were forced to higher levels. Advances of 25c to 50c were marked up at principal western centres. Eastern markets were generally unchanged on a fairly liberal supply. Aside from a decrease of $1.00 on calves at Montreal and a like amount on hogs at Calgary, there was no other material change in the live stock market situation.

Eastern Cattle Markets

Cattle marketings at Toronto, at around 5300, were about 1,000 more than for the same week last year. Rail deliveries were normal and trucks were beginning to operate again as highways became cleared. The supply was well taken, with top weighty steers at $15.25 to $15.50, and butcher steers between $13 and $15. Small lots of stocker cattle sold at $12 to $13.50. Trading at Montreal was fairly active, with good steers $14 to $15.25 and good cows $11 to $12 and an odd $12.50. In the Maritimes, receipts continued light and good steers and heifers were quoted at a top of $14.

Western Cattle Markets

Fairly short supplies in the west served to move prices onto a higher plane. Winnipeg advanced fully 50c on practically all slaughter cattle and placed the spread between medium and good cattle at an exceedingly narrow range. Odd choice steers topped at Winnipeg at $13.50 and all other good kinds were $15 to $15.25. Some few fair to good stockers moved at $11 to $12, on a scarce supply. Calgary paid $14.25 to $15 for best steers, an advance of 25c to 50c: Edmonton a practical top of $14.50: Prince Albert $14.50: Moose Jaw up to $14; Saskatoon a general $14.50: Regina $14 to $14.50; and Vancouver $14.75.

Exports To United States

Dairy cattle exports for the week totalled 1317 head, including 130 for China. This compares with 895 in the same week last year. Exports since January 1st amount to 9,155 as against 12,031 in the corresponding period a year ago.

Calves Lower at Montreal

While there was a strong market for choice veals at $16 to $17 at Toronto and an extreme $17.25, Montreal was slow and dropped $1, finishing with good veals at $15 to $15.50. Winnipeg and other western markets were generally active and unchanged, Winnipeg paying $15 to $16.50 for best calves, Calgary $13 to $14. Edmonton $13 to $14, Prince Albert up to $14.50, Moose Jaw $14, Saskatoon up to $15 and an extreme $15.50, and Regina $13 to $14.

Hogs Generally Unchanged

Aside from a decline at Calgary, hog prices held to the previous week's levels. Toronto paid $22 for Grade A, Montreal a general $22.25, Winnipeg $20.40, Calgary $20.50, Edmonton $21.25 for shipment, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Regina $20.15, Vancouver $21.50 to $22.40, Moncton $23.15, and Charlottetown $22.15.

The above prices do not include the Dominion Government premium of $2 per head on Grade A and $1 per head on Grade B hogs.

3¢ A BUSHEL
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(2) Living too long, with earning power gone.

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LET'S TALK THIS OVER

E. C. JOHNSTONE, C.L.U., Provincial Manager
Charlottetown, P. E. Island.

HOLSTEIN MEETING

A general meeting of the P. E. I. Holstein Friesian Association will be held in the Dept. of Agriculture room on Tuesday, April 22nd at 1:30 P.M. to make a selection of a bull for artificial unit.

CECIL J. STEWART.

NOTICE

TO REGISTERED LIVESTOCK BREEDERS

We have been advised by the Minister of Agriculture that due to the generosity of the Provincial Government there will be a substantial increase in the Prize money offered for the Provincial Exhibition during OLD HOME WEEK, August 12-15. This is also made possible by a large donation from the Provincial Exhibition Association. This year the Prize money will be the largest ever offered the breeders in the history of the Association.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION
H. J. KENNEDY, President.

NOTICE

I am now booking Chick Orders for E. W. George, Sackville, N. B., for day-old—non-sexed—Also for Cockerels and Pullets 3 and 4 weeks old. Breeds Light Sussex—and Barred Rocks. Also Light Sussex crossed with R. I. Red.—Also can supply you with any other breed desired from other Hatcheries.

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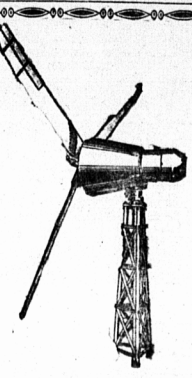

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FISHERMEN/Ask us about the new WITTE MARINE ENGINE which operates on less than ONE HALF PINT of low cost DIESEL fuel oil per H. P. per Hr., complete with starting and reverse clutch. Also engines for any kind of driving power

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