

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The whole fur industry in the United States and Canada is experiencing its first serious trouble in some years. Retailers in the United States have cut the prices for expensive mink coats as much as 50 per cent and muskrat and other types of furs have been slashed as much as 25 to 30 per cent. Practically all made up furs, have suffered a decline and this decline has no doubt, been reflected in our retail fur markets if it has not already gone into effect. Note in Charlottetown and Summerside discounts of 33 1/3 per cent are advertised.

There are a variety of causes that have produced this state of affairs. One of them is the encouragement and assistance given importers to bring in furs from outside countries—yes, as far away as Russia, Afghanistan, China and Japan. These furs with the large catch from the wilds brought about by the stimulation of high prices, an increased production from mink ranches and a steady output from silver fox ranches has caused a glut in a market that is now suffering from a pronounced surplus. In pending years you will know in your own case and you will notice others that there is not the tendency to surplus that there was a year or two ago. Perhaps this does not apply very generally to our own Province, but much of the United States and Upper Canada where manufacturing plants were paying out enormous amounts to their employees, the recipients in most cases spent very freely and a great deal of the money from the sale of newly rich was invested in furs.

From early Spring strikes have been the order of the day. The great number of people and have caused tremendous losses in the stock market, yes, losses that would total millions and billions of dollars, and the losses due to stoppage of work would run into billions more. A very unhealthy public state has been created, now made more so by the egotistical John L. Lewis, whose behaviour has caused the greatest social danger—one that threatens the livelihood of five million workers and the comfort of over 100 millions more.

Another factor that we touched on last week and one that has a very serious effect, is the disposition of 100,000 silver fox and new type pelts by a Norwegian organization to the United States. This has connections in the United States and South America. The price was \$10.50 per pelt. The pelts were not of good quality on the average, in fact one might say, they were inferior. They had been kept in cold storage or in caves or places secured from the occupying Germans. Their take-off dates back to 1944. Many of these pelts are arriving in the United States and are being sold at a profit to the handlers for less than \$25. per pelt.

The principal bad thing about it is that they are being introduced to South American and Mexican markets as well and are therefore in direct competition with us. Added to these troubles is the fact that the mink breeders have in the past years very cleverly played up the beauty and other good qualities of mink and have instilled the belief in the minds of many that the voice of long-haired mink is passer. Manufacturers who have quantities of Kolinsky, Japanese mink, Chinese mink, mink, wild mink, muskrat and other short-haired furs, have played this up to perfection. We were too slow to catch on but now an effort is being made to advertise their propaganda with advertising that costs our furs. The trouble is that the amount of money which we

IT'S MAKE TOWN! SERVICE-THAT COUNTS. J. M. Ladner 177 KENT STREET. This year get a NEW Rentfree CREAM SEPARATOR.

WORLD'S MOST RAPIDLY EXPANDING TOBACCO BROADCAST. COAST TO COAST. J. M. Ladner 177 KENT STREET.

ATTENTION! FOX RANCHERS. Our receiving station at F. R. McLaine's is now open for the season. We are receiving furs for shipment to the leading markets. Eleven years of successful selling and marketing for Ranchers in the Maritimes is your assurance of good returns. We believe the Fur Market is going to be strong throughout the season so this should be a good year to ship to the MARITIME FUR POOL LTD. F. R. McLaine Local Representative MINK and MUSKRAT Skins are high. BRING THEM IN AT ONCE.

Fox Meat. Just arrived, car load of horse meat. Order your requirements immediately. W. R. JENKINS 208 Great George St.

taken up through our provincial organizations and it is a matter that will have to be studied out very carefully in order to present a workable plan. Every fox farmer who reads this page should act quickly if Mr. Hiley will remove the processing tax and sales tax quickly it will mean an advance of from 15 to 25 per cent on Silver Fox and Mutations over the lows of September.

The December sale of the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd., will be held December 18th, Mink, December 17th, 18th and 19th, Silver Fox and new types. We understand there is a large offering and this sale will give a pretty clear indication of the trend of prices and demand.

The Prince Edward Island Silver Fox Fair Show will be held at Summerside, January 8th to 8th, 1947. Tuesday, December 31st will be closing date for entries and all pelts must be in the hands of the pelting committee at the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, Summerside, on that date. Thursday and Friday, January 2nd and 3rd will be given over to the classifying of pelts and judging will commence on Monday, January 6th and continue on 7th and 8th. Douglas Bell, chief fur grader for the Province will be the judge. The Prince Edward Island Fox Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association invites ranchers to reserve their pelts for this show. Pelts for show purposes may be left at any of the local fur houses and the usual advance secured. Last season's pelts, particularly the new types, met with a splendid reception and excellent prices for the consignors. Practically all the nearly 1,000 pelts have been disposed of, the only ones remaining unsold are some sisters.

The past week has been a busy one for fox farmers all over the Island and thousands of pelts have been taken off. As far as we can tell they are all of good quality and there is a great increase of new types from last season. Some ranchers are cutting down on their breeding stock and a few are going out of business, preferring to devote their energies to other occupations they are engaged in. This is not good news of course we all hate to see our ranks being thinned but with the very high cost of feed and the lowered price of pelts it is not to be wondered at. As a matter of fact the cost of producing a pelt today runs between \$25 and \$32 according to the amount charged up as labor and it takes a mighty good ranch to be able to break even let alone make a profit at such figures.

It is expected that Fritz Weisler, well known Silver Fox and Mink buyer of Montreal will pay his usual visit to the Province about the middle of December and will have his headquarters at W. Chester S. McLure's office, Kent Street. Mr. Weisler has been coming here for the past five years and has been the principal buyer of Island pelts locally. Through his connection with Canadian, United States and South American buyers he has many outlets for the disposal of furs.

Puzzle of Tussock White-Market Moth

The survey of the white-marked tussock moth in the Maritime Provinces has presented a new problem to forest entomologists. In 1945 there was an increase in the numbers of this insect but without an outbreak. In 1946, a further large increase in numbers resulted in considerable defoliation over extensive areas of Southern New Brunswick and Northwestern Nova Scotia. In the defoliated areas so far examined, the unusual fact has been demonstrated that the white-marked tussock moth has made a concerted attack on birch trees particularly white birch, as the preferred food. At the same time, larvae migrating from defoliated trees or blown on air threads by the wind have defoliated many other species of trees, plants, unsprayed apple orchards and caused annoyance in summer cottage gardens.

The outbreak is of particular interest as it appears to be the first recorded in forested areas on birch, states the Bi-Monthly Progress Report Forest Insect Investigations, Division of Entomology, Dominion Department of Agriculture. The white-marked tussock moth has generally been considered to be a pest on broad-leaved shade trees only, thriving particularly in towns where its natural enemies were insufficient to keep it under control. About ten years ago, a mild outbreak occurred on balsam and spruce over considerable forest areas in parts of Nova Scotia. These two outbreaks, says the Report, illustrate how an insect which feeds on a considerable number of tree species may vary in its food preferences from time to time and place to place. Its future behaviour cannot be predicted with any certainty as it seems to be capable of developing more or less distinct physiological races adapted to different forest conditions. In the process, its status as a forest pest may be considerably changed. The survey should eventually provide more accurate information on the phenomenon.

How to Have Good Home Plants. House plants add to the comfort and enjoyment of a home, particularly during the winter months. The tough old Aspidistras and Sansevierias can stand a great deal of neglect in dry or drafty situations but most plants respond quickly either to good care or unsuitable environment, states R.W. Oliver, Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Most flowering plants, like Geraniums, Cinerarias, and Primula like plenty of sunshine, but cool temperatures. The hot, dry winter atmosphere of most Canadian homes ruins most attempts at indoor gardening. This is the usual cause of fine Cyclamen plants, obtained from the florists at a week or two. Begonias of the Lady Mac and Christmas Cheer type, African Violets and Achenemes are the most satisfactory flowering plants for the average home where the heat is plentiful and sunlight scarce.

Ferns, and most foliage plants, as well as African Violets, are the most suitable plants for bright north or east windows. Ivy, Wandering Jew, and Angel's Tears grow in even less light but Coleus are more brightly coloured in sunlight. Soil varies for different plants from the mixture of gritty sand and leaf mould suitable to cacti and succulents to the heavy loam preferred by the Geranium. In general, an open loam soil with plenty of decaying rose fibre is best as a basic sand or leaf mould can then be added to suit individual requirements. Water for house plants is best supplied from the bottom, by standing the pot in shallow pans 1-1 1/2" deep until the moisture reaches the surface of the soil. This will only need to be done once or twice a week. Plants growing rapidly in sunshine at high temperature will need water more often than those under opposite circumstances.

Hot, dry air is not only detrimental to the growth of house plants but encourages the development of white fly, red spider and aphids, which are annoying pests. The best method of controlling such pests is to stand the pots where possible, on a trayful of moist gravel and to syringe the foliage occasionally with a fine spray of cool water. COSTLY QUAKE Lord Louis Mountbatten is the great-grandson of Queen Victoria.

The GIFT of the Season. Glamorous House Coats Lounging Pyjamas and Bath Robes. Quilted Satins in plain and floral designs, practical chenilles and figure molding jerseys. For that Christmas gift that can't miss, select from our fine collection. Price Range to Suit Everyone 6.50 to 27.50. The Greendal Co., Ltd. LADIES' STORE 99 QUEEN STREET.

Opening Business. Am open for business, selling J. R. WATKINS Products, HOUSEHOLD and FARM NECESSITIES, etc. JAMES L. MacKINNON, Springton.

New Styles Are Scintillating. PARIS, Oct. 2—Jacques Fath's new collection is a joyful and scintillating show on a white flared skirt shown on a white brocade lame shirtwaist frock. It features really "portfolios" and has long tight sleeves with marten cuffs and is worn with a little marten toque.

MARITIME CENTRAL AIRWAYS. HALIFAX NEW GLASGOW 12:45 p.m. Lv. Charlottetown 4:30 p.m. Lv. New Glasgow. 1:45 p.m. Ar. Halifax. \$5.00 one way to New Glasgow. \$9.00 one way to Halifax. Plus Tax. Reservations-Tickets Rogers Agency, Phone 540 Airport Phone 2061-2062.

Notice to House Holders. Insurance that was adequate in 1939 most likely does not cover 1946 values. Permit us to check your coverage to ensure desired protection in the event of a loss. Phone No. 540 or 541. W. K. ROGERS Agencies Ltd. Life - Fire - Casualty - Marine Insurance. Every Risk - Every Kind Large or Small Queen St., Charlottetown P.E.I.

He and his wife, the former Leona Fear, are from Springhill, Nova Scotia. They will have three other paralyzed veterans living in their two-storey home. They are Carl Hurlbert, Kentville, N. S., Bernard Martel, Dartmouth, N. S., and Harold Kelley, a Canadian-born American who served in the Canadian Army. Tom Somerville, wounded while serving with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, will live with his wife a short distance from Ward.

Don't Forget Your Christmas Dry Cleaning. SEND IT EARLY TO NEW METHOD CLEANERS. PHONE 2447 - 2448.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS! FROM LOOPIN and JAGGERS. TO REMOVE FRUIT STAINS. from tablecloths, napkins or other washable material, spread stained parts over a bowl and pour boiling water through the fabric until the stains disappear.

...and if it's Coffee Perfection you want - use BLUE RIBBON. THE QUALITY COFFEE. It's the kind of coffee you'll be proud to serve... rich, flavourful, satisfying. Packaged only in vacuum-sealed tins and glass jars—always FRESH. SAVE THE COUPONS FOR "LOOPIN and JAGGERS" Cabinet's Story Books.

15 Shopping Days To Christmas. NEW METHOD CLEANERS. PHONE 2447 - 2448.