

# MODERN FARMER



## TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

At a recent meeting of the Silver Fox Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association a resolution was passed to be forwarded to Hon. J. C. Abbott, Minister of Finance, asking for the removal of the 10 per cent processing tax and the 8 per cent sales tax on silver fox furs. A committee was appointed to formulate an application for a floor on prices of silver fox furs, the idea being to help out the silver fox farmer this season with possibly enough, which if added to his selling price would cover the cost of production. Floors have been set up for farming products and as the fox farmer comes under farmers category it is the intent of the directors of the Association that he is entitled to consideration.

Just before Christmas we had a letter from Ollie McNeill, Port Quappee, Sask., which we quote: "I may say that I had an enjoyable interview with the Hon. Mr. Gardiner at Ottawa on my way back from Charlottetown. He was quite sympathetic and is willing to co-operate in any way in the marketing of Canadian furs. He did not think that our friends to the south of us would change the quota or add to the tariff although some of our fur merchants would lead us to believe that there is danger of their doing so. In regard to getting in touch with our parliamentary representatives I think it is a splendid idea. Our good friend W. Claxton, S. McLeure, M. P., has been doing his best during the past season and I am sure he will be glad of all the support he can receive."

I attended the Winnipeg show on my way back. They collected a substantial amount at their banquet which will be used for the advertising of foxes and mink, that is it will form part of the fund being collected for that purpose. I also visited the Vancouver show. The fox exhibit there was small but the mink was a lot of splendid mink. The climate out there appears to be excellent for this animal. The cost of production is lower than any other province of Canada and the reason is a plentiful supply of fish and they are good food. In proof of this I happened to be seated at the banquet table next to a rancher who won three championships and to my surprise he told me that he had used 75 per cent of fish in the diet. - - - Thanks, Ollie for your letter which I have quoted. It will be appreciated by our mink ranchers and others. There is no question that mink thrive on fish and a large part of the diet can be of that form. It is otherwise with silver foxes. Chastek Paralysis will result. That is a sort of paralysis or dragging of the hind parts. If at any time you see your foxes or mink making symptoms of this, feed brewers yeast and change your diet adding some horse meat and liver or fresh beef and they will get over it.

Fritz Weisler of the Weisler Fur Company, Montreal, spent a few days here last week buying furs. Mr. Weisler was, like the rest of us, not too certain about what the market would do. However, he did purchase quite a number of skins, platinum, white marked and silver. He stated that he would like to have spent more time here but business interests in Montreal demanded this attention.

They are slashing furs and fur coats in Montreal, and yes, in Charlottetown too we have just had some very low prices. Mr. Weisler was making the flight with the animals and 1,000 pounds of beef liver is being taken for food. A brief stop is planned at LaGuardia Field before the ship goes off for Norway.

Tuesday, December 31st, was last receiving day for silver foxes.

Wild mink coats formerly priced at \$11,000 and \$11,500 at \$5,500 each. The Eaton Company, Ltd. announces usual savings and will have the inspection of reductions marked on price tickets. Holt Renfrew Co. Ltd. puts the accent on quality and says every coat has been rechecked to give customers decidedly substantial savings. We note where all over the United States most fur specialty stores and departmental stores are marking down furs.

Saks Fifth Avenue store in New York had a sale recently of \$4,000,000 worth of furs. Among the articles sold were mink coats, large quantities of Persian lamb broadtail, sable, nutria, ermine, lynx, silver fox, platinum fox, blue fox and other furs were disposed of. Marked downs ran as high as 50 per cent. While the above marked downs and special sales may seem a depressing factor yet we believe it is the quickest way to right the public indifference to furs which was manifest prior to the break in prices. Great interest will be stirred up by these sales and people who had no expectation of buying furs will become customers and their wearing furs will create a demand from others, for every one of the older attributes of fur is one of the oldest attributes of character. We are confident that if the interest continues for a few weeks more we will have a demand for made up stocks and that a banquet will be held on Wednesday evening and the judging is expected to be completed that day.

The Hudson's Bay Company of London, England, estimates based on their December sale prices with the silver fox market opened there at a decline of 30 per cent compared with December, 1945. Official quotations on the small proportion of fresh Scandinavian goods included in the sale was an advance of 1-2 per cent on October. It is customary, the firm explains, in its after-sale report to quote comparisons with the previous season's opening prices. As the first post-war silver fox sale held in January last was mostly carry-over merchandise, the collection that time, due to late pelting, contained so few fresh skins the company quoted advances and declines against October.

Anning, Chadwick and Klever, Ltd., quotes firm prices on fresh goods included in the December sale. The company bases its quotations on the price of the ready sale when private treaty sales shortly before the auction. Anning states in its post sale report it has also sold by private treaty some 1,000 Russian silver foxes for export account. (This is the first importation we have had of Russian silver foxes being sent to the London market). The next London silver fox sales are scheduled to open January 6th by the Hudson's Bay Company when a catalogue of fresh mink will also be offered. Anning's set its silver fox sale to open January 13th.

Petoskey, Mich., Dec. 22.—Olma-Braser Larsen, a former fur farm operator in Norway, is planning to fly a cargo of breeding stock consisting of 842 mink and 44 white-faced foxes, to Oslo, starting some time this week. The animals have started their 4,360-mile journey in a chartered plane. Mr. Larsen, who launched a fur-farming project in this country in 1938 after he was broke over Europe while he was visiting the United States, said the animals he is transporting by air will be distributed among 74 Norwegian breeders. The mink stock, insured by American Airlines to \$175,000, includes platinum, glacier blue, pastel and Kohl-nur types. Two friends of Mr. Larsen are making the flight with the animals and 1,000 pounds of beef liver is being taken for food. A brief stop is planned at LaGuardia Field before the ship goes off for Norway.

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## FARM RADIO FORUM Local Broadcast and

FARMERS' QUESTION BOX 8:15 to 8:30

NATIONAL PROGRAMME 9:30 to 10:00

CFCY MONDAY EVENINGS

JAN. 6th Special Speaker HON. W. F. A. STEWART

fox pelts and mutations at Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, Summerside.

Called up secretary Tom Carruthers and he informs us that there are well over 1,000 entries. This is a new record as far as we can remember for any pet show anywhere. Douglas Bell, Carleton provincial fur grader, will have a tough assignment ahead of him but he has proven his worth in the shows of 1945 and 1946. Judging will commence on Monday and continue on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Summerside High School where it was held in 1945 and 1944. Arrangements for the display of pelts are in the capable hands of Lowell W. Hancock and the grading committee is also an excellent one so we can be sure of a good show, well conducted. We neglected to mention that a banquet will be held on Wednesday evening and the judging is expected to be completed that day.

Indefatigable and untiring as adjectives that could be very well applied to our friend Lowell W. Hancock, Summerside. We thank him for a catalogue of Ohio National Mink, Silvers, Sables, Blue-cross, Royal Kohl-nur which he is offering and fine breeding, also the splendid feed schedule which accompanies it. Ohio National foxes giving breeding of sires and dams with complete descriptions. The circular that goes with them bears a reproduction of the wonderful pelts AGJ-518 and the pelts which won Grand Champion platinum and Reserve Grand Champion White Marked Silver at the 1944 pet show.

Herbert A. Nieman Company whose ranches are in Hermansville, Wis., and Northern Michigan, have just recently completed pelting 41,800 silver foxes which were corralled on the seven Nieman farms. The pelting is carried on at Hermansville, Michigan, and 2,000 foxes daily. According to Ronald Stevenson, secretary of the company, the value of the 1946 harvest is in excess of \$1,500,000. Note: Ronald must have been thinking of 1945 or early 1946 prices. However, we hope they will achieve his estimate.

From ranches announced they had pelted 35,000 foxes while Nieman as above show nearly 42,000, making a total of 77,000 for these two big concerns. The total production of the United States this season is not expected to be over 100,000, so one can see what a big factor Nieman and Stevenson are.

In a conversation with secretary Tom Carruthers last evening he informed us that they have received over twice as many pelts as last season. The pelting is carried on at Hermansville, Michigan, and 2,000 foxes daily. According to Ronald Stevenson, secretary of the company, the value of the 1946 harvest is in excess of \$1,500,000. Note: Ronald must have been thinking of 1945 or early 1946 prices. However, we hope they will achieve his estimate.

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Mrs. Fred Doucette of Old Time, Maine, U. S. A., having read that an Illinois farmer's Jersey cow yielded 350 quarts to the gallon, put the record to trial when visiting her niece Mrs. F. Robichaud, Petit Rocher, N. B. Result was 336 quarts to the gallon. This Jersey cow seen above is owned by F. Robichaud.

## U. K. Offers Market for Eggs

Canada's latest egg contract with the United Kingdom offers an assured market at a higher price to every surplus Canadian egg laid from February 1, 1947 to January 31, 1949, says the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The Department estimates the value of the contract at approximately \$80,000,000.

The contract calls for the Special Products Board to deliver to the U. K. Ministry of Food a minimum of 7,500 k.g. tons of sugar dried egg powder and 1,500,000 cases of shell eggs, in each of the twelve months period, February 1, 1947 to January 31, 1948 and February 1, 1948 to January 31, 1949.

The quantity of eggs required to fill each of the twelve-month periods of this two-year contract is the same as required by the current 1946 contract but the price obtained for this latest contract permits an increase of one cent per dozen over the 1946 price to the producer in the spring buying period, February 1 to August 31, and an increase of two cents per dozen in the fall buying period, September 1 to January 31.

The Special Products Board will buy eggs of the Canadian government Grades A Large, A Medium and A Pullet for its 1947 shipments. Whether Grade A Pullet eggs will be included in 1948 shipments is to be decided by the U. K. Ministry of Food before the end of 1947.

The Board will limit its purchase of storage eggs to Grades A Large and A Medium, but Grades A and C will be accepted for the manufacture of the sugar dried egg powder to be used by British bakers.

## Rapid Decline In Fruit Trees

What has happened to fruit trees in Canada in the last 40 years, is the subject of an article in the Economic Annalist by B.A. Campbell and Dr. W. C. Hooper. They point out that the 1937 census reported 21 million fruit trees in Canada and by 1941 the number had decreased to 13.8 million. This decrease in the number of fruit trees to the climate or soil in these areas. In limited areas of Ontario, such as the Niagara Peninsula, plantings of tender fruits increased and replaced apple orchards have practically disappeared over a wide area of Canada.

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A similar story is told of the changes in numbers of apple trees in Canada during the 40-year period. In 1901 there were more than 21 million apple trees reported in Canada and by 1941 this total had declined to 13.8 million trees, a decline of 34.3 per cent in the period. In 1940 total production of apples was about 14 million bushels which was 25 per cent less than in 1901.

The most exacting demands of poultry in a nutritional way are made by breeding stock. The breeder or ration must furnish the reproductive stage of the bird's life and must provide the essential nutrients for the development of the embryo and to some extent for the livability of the chick since its initial nourishment is supplied through the egg, says Morris Noykoff, Poultry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. If the hen does not obtain the nutrients as an adequate level she will draw upon her body stores to a degree which can have a disastrous effect on the hen and ultimately on the resulting chick.

The problem reduces itself to the obtaining of feeds which are sufficiently high in all the essential nutrients to supply the highest levels for maintenance, production, and reproduction.

Feeds such as fish meal, meat meal, soybean oil meal and dried milk products will supply the proteins; bonemeal, limestone, oyster shell, salt, manganese sulphate, the minerals, chelated greens feeds, yeast, vitamin oils, synthetic vitamins, the vitamins. The bulk here we can hardly eat or sleep. No doubt it is a hectic job when everybody comes piling in their staff at Canadian National are courteous and very efficient and everything runs like clock work.

## - NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

### Origin Of Santa Claus

Not long ago I read an article which tried to show that Santa Claus first made his appearance in pre-historic times. People lived in caverns and sought the daylight by climbing through a hole in the roof, which accounts for the original Santa's predilection for climbing up and down chimneys. A habit never attributed to the good Bishop Nicholas of later times.

The early cave-dwellers of Europe, unfortunately for this story, always lived in open caves or under grass, whose floor was usually at ground level, so that none need come down the chimney, if there was one. There are, however, ancient Stone Age flint mines at various points both in England and on the continent, still in good preservation, even to the present day. The old miners used the mine-shafts at Grime's Graves, Norfolk, a nearly 40 feet deep and the miners must have descended the shafts by means of notched tree-trunks for ladders.

When bronze came into use, mining was discontinued. Gradually the darkness holes in the ground became the abode of goblins - gnomes such as you see in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." They were well-known guardians of the mine's treasures. Their dress was traditional and was a memory of the flint-miners dress, though more gaily colored. Santa is in his company and observe he has no ecclesiastical vestments, and never mentions a bishopric. Like the old miners he knows nothing about doors, but the old-fashioned chimney must certainly lead to the interior of the house, and so he climbs down, as he did into the mine. In the past half century his name grew till his presence at Christmas quite overshadowed the Central Figure of the Festival.

### Christmas Music

I write this on Boxing Day; the Carols and Hymns are "over." It is pleasing to note that there has been a revival of interest in these ancient tunes. One of the hymns, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night," was sung - to my surprise - to an old tune, and observed he has no long ago, and known as "The Vicar of Bray." That rollicking ballad tells the story of one Simon Allen - who held his position as Vicar by adopting whatever religion of policy held power at the moment. Hence the chorus to each verse was: "And this is law, that I'll maintain."

Until my dying day, says: "That whatsoever King may reign, Still I'll be the Vicar of Bray, sire."

The sacred song "Nazareth" was given by a choir; it is an excellent piece for this festival, and as a matter of interest in these ancient tunes. One of the hymns, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night," was sung - to my surprise - to an old tune, and observed he has no long ago, and known as "The Vicar of Bray." That rollicking ballad tells the story of one Simon Allen - who held his position as Vicar by adopting whatever religion of policy held power at the moment. Hence the chorus to each verse was: "And this is law, that I'll maintain."

An expert's opinion - I often wonder why we never hear songs like the tuneful and robust compositions of a generation ago. The same question occurred to a reporter in London and he went to the headquarters of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, Ltd., publishers. The firm used to publish an "Annual" giving all the popular songs of the year and was well able to offer an opinion.

scorable text has changed. "People seem to prefer a superior type of song, something more subtle and less rowdy. The don't appear to care for the old type of number (song) whenever we have tried to revive them."

However, the manager of Fieldman's (publishers) agrees that the present day songs had not the lilt and melody of the old-fashioned numbers. My own opinion is that the songs we do hear, (with very few exceptions) are neither superior nor subtle. They are simple and dreary maudliners, and as long as the records survive, the public will get nothing else. There are scores of good hearty songs of a comic (not rowdy) character, but the people have no chance of getting acquainted with them.

to place a box, with a slot in the lid, on the counter. An inscription on the box asked customers to contribute a coin to the apprentices' "Christmas Box." On the day after Christmas Day the box was opened and the contents divided amongst the lads. The day gradually became known as "Boxing-Day" and the title persists, though the custom has fallen into desuetude. It was a good custom, tho', for the apprentices found it paid to be courteous and punctual in the delivery of goods. In the Old Country a gift at this season of the year was still known as a Christmas Box.

### More About Family Names

A letter, just received, from a lady now resident in Toronto, gives some very valuable information on the Island Family Names.

"Dear Agricola" (it reads), "a friend sent me several copies of 'The Guardians' containing your notes on names as found in Campbell's History of P. E. I. Cherry Valley was named by Lewis Hayden or Hadyn, originally German, but afterwards U. E. Loyalist, coming here from Cherry Valley, N. Y., not far from Albany and Ononaharle. There is a brook still known as Hadyn's brook. These men were millers and their descendants are to this day. The first mill I recall on Vernon River, was operated by John Hayden.

John Van Idersdine, another U. E. Loyalist, was of Dutch extraction, as were the Musicks. I recall Peter Musick, a blacksmith, a fine old gentleman, who showed the facial features of the Dutch. The Enmans were Dutch, as were the Praughts, originally Praucht. The wife of the pioneer Praught was Susanna Wagner from Germany.

The name now spelled Acorn, is given as Eschorn in Campbell's history. This name I have heard originally Elchorn; the family were Germans from Hesse-Darmstadt but came here from Maine. They, also, were millers and built the first mill near Vernon; the family operated it until recently.

The Gays, Browns, and Judsons were U. E. Loyalists; the latter family came here from Carolina, but they emigrated originally from Newcastle on Tyne. (Were they responsible for the name of Tyne Valley? Agricola). The family formed the Lot 49 settlement, the present-day Jenkins among them. That name was Henke or Henkel also German, but it was not the Rev. Theo. Desbry's suggested the name: Jenkins which they adopted.

The Cherry Valley settlers - Crane, Ings, Judson, Carrier, Young, and Muller - all U. E. L. stock, as also was Capt. Beer whose old home built of logs and boulders, still stands, though dilapidated. It has the appearance of a New England home, such as one might see along the north shore of Mass. The Wrights also settled in Cherry Valley - a creek is still known as Wright's brook. One Major or Capt. Bromgorton built a house similar to Major Beer's but it was burned down and the family returned to the U. S. Strange to say, a Highlander, Donald MacPhee, was among the U. E. L. that settled in Cherry Valley.

The Hales and Mellishes were families that settled near Pownall. Haley, I was told, was Gov. Fanning's secretary. Then there was a Smallwood who boasted that he was one of King George IV's gardeners and whose wardrobe contained 12 fine linen shirts!

What a shame that no records of these early families exist! reading the Rev. Dr. Judson of Pownall, now deceased knew the history of all the families in that settlement, but never wrote. So his information is gone forever. In Lot 64 is one Nicholson Hughes; this name should be Hugh, for they were Devon folk who settled in Murray Harbor at an early date. Miss Edith Hugh of P. W. C., who died 2 or 3 years ago, was a descendant of this family. The name Shensbach

## Growth of Bacon Hogs

(Experimental Farms News)

Information concerning the average growth rate of Canadian bacon type hogs is important to the farmer as an aid in measuring the success of his particular hog feeding, management or breeding program.

To obtain suitable information for a standard growth, the hogs should be weighed at short intervals, preferably not exceeding two weeks. This procedure has been followed at the Dominion Experimental Farm, Nappan, N. S., in connection with experimental feeding trials during the past ten years. From this information the average daily live weight increase has been calculated for 183 Yorkshire hogs of related breeding, which were full fed typical rations in groups of four or five hogs each. Hogs in the 36 pound live weight class showed an average daily rate of gain of almost three-quarters of a pound. This growth rate increased by about 14 pounds for each additional 10 pound increase in the average live weight of the hogs up to a weight of 70 pounds. That is, hogs at a live weight of 50 and 70 pounds made an average daily gain of one and 1.31 pounds respectively. This rate of gain gradually increased during the period of growth from 70 to 200 pounds live weight. However, the rate of gain in this period did not increase as rapidly with each unit increase in the weight of the hogs as was the case with the lighter pigs. Hogs at a live weight of 120 and 170 pounds made an average daily gain of 1.80 and 1.72 pounds respectively. This rate of gain increased up to 1.90 pound weight class.

Comes the time when she's a fourth of a mind to get busy and busy to get busy. He encourages it. At first anyway. The first ten pounds she takes on he approves of highly, declaring she was far too skinny when he married her. Many a time he's told her he prefers a woman with a little meat on her bones, and urges her to eat and be healthy. Well, as long as he feels that way says Ida Jean Kain. Then when she gradually takes on a second skin he says he is surprisingly tells her not to start worrying about her weight. As long as she's healthy, Of course, the wise wife should wake up at that point and recognize that if he tells her not to worry, perhaps he's just a mite worried himself.

should spell Sensabaugh, Dutch or German, but from N. Y. State. The Evlins or Irvings, came from Dumfries, Scotland, in 1788. Laws and Sherrans are two families listed by Campbell; both lived at Vernon but the Sherrans moved to Murray Harbor.

A most interesting letter and well worth preserving as throwing a light on the history of early settlers.

J. M. Ladner 177 KENT STREET

This year get a NEW



Renfrew CREAM SEPARATOR Also Ranges - TRUCK SCALES - WASHING MACHINES

## To Fox Ranchers Who Want To Stay In Business

Now as never before every fox rancher must call his stock to the point of breeding every foxes. Quality and not quantity is the word of the day. Improve your herd by introducing futuristic foxes bred from generations of prize-winning stock with the reputation of clicking with other strains.

I offer you male and female pups of top quality at the lowest price in the history of this ranch. All foxes inoculated with Fromm's vaccine.

Ralph G. Muttart Summerside Ranch-Duke Street

## "EARLIEST AND BEST" TOMATO

Introduced by the late George and by their heirs it has outlasted all other varieties among both home and Canada. Our summers ripened in "Earliest and Best" is a large, beautiful, solid, perfect shipping tomato, earlier than any other variety. High crown type without core, and most beautiful red with faint green stripes, crisp, solid, crackles, withstands sun, stored fruit, and often up to 100 days.

FREE - OUR 1947 SEED AND SUGGESTION BOOK - Loans Again to DOMESTIC SEED HOUSE, GERRYSTOWN, ONT.

## McGaughey's All-Season Jersey Cow

This five-month-old calf, Glenatfin Kilmarney, bred by J. J. E. McGaughey, Alliston, Ont., sold for \$40,000 to the Waterloo Holstein Breeders' Club for future use in artificial insemination.

