

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The first silver fox sales of 1949 were held by the Hudson's Bay Company and Anning, Kiever & Chadwick, London, England, Hudson's Bay reported that fresh silver fox pelts sold well, state were withdrawn, also the state platinum and pearl platinum pelts were with-

Apparently the continent is getting practically all their supplies from Norway. Some weeks ago we showed where silver fox and platinum had advanced quite good figures for 1948. The information was given out by Mr. J. Walker, President and Managing Director of Holt Renfrew & Co., who stated that the number of foxes of various types raised in Canada for the 1948-49 season is estimated at 115,000 and that mink, standard and mutation pelts for the same season would total about 318,000. It can be said beyond doubt, he adds, that Canadian mink output this season will at least equal the output of the preceding season.

The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd. held their January mink vendue in Montreal Tuesday and Wednesday. Only information regarding the first day's sale had come through when this was written. Wild mink was 25% sold in an advance of 20% from December. Sable mink was 65% sold. The biggest hand-picked lot of about the same size as the December sale at which the average price was \$144. Pastels were 100% sold on the same basis. The December sale of Kohinar mink was 100% sold and realized the same basis as in December, namely, \$8.35 per pelt. Standard mink was regarded as stronger. Some parties in sales rooms believed it was up 5%. The average price in December was \$10.12 and for the low grades \$3.78.

George A. Callbeck, who has been attending the above sale, left Wednesday evening for New York to be present at Lampton, Fraser & Huth's sale of mutation mink January 13th and 14th. He returns to Montreal in time for the silver fox and mutation pelt sale January 19th and 20th. Considerable interest is being shown in this particular sale of 40, as it will give an indication of how the fresh pelts will be taken by the buyers. If there is any substantial advance on December prices it will be very heartening to the whole industry.

F. C. Taylor Fur Company of St. Louis, Mo., held a very large auction sale on January 6th, the goods bringing over \$55,000. The quality of the pelts was the best of the season. Mink was up about fifteen cents, and muskrat two cents, while other articles were unchanged. The fur sale is looked on as an indication of prices for other sales throughout the United States so we are giving some particulars of it. Minnesota mink brought \$18.50, Carolina \$19.00, Texas \$24.25 and centrals \$2.50. Muskrat large and extra large brought from \$2.15 to \$2.18; mediums \$1.40 and smalls 78c; skunk brought from 75c to \$2.20 and raccoons from 70c to \$2.50.

The Foutie Fur Company of St.

Louis, Mo., may decide to establish a branch Canadian plant in Montreal and it is possible that it will be operated by Holt Renfrew & Co., Ltd. The principal reason for the setting up of a plant will be to have finished seal pelts dress-made. As our readers are aware there is a pact between the United States and Canada for the control of the Pribilof Islands off the coast of Alaska. These islands are the homes for thousands of seals, the pelts of which bring an annual revenue running into the millions. The pact has been indefinitely extended, which means that Canada receives 20% of all seals killed.

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Apparently the great trouble with moving furs in the United States this year is the 20% tax levied by the Federal Government. One came through when this was written. Wild mink was 25% sold in an advance of 20% from December. Sable mink was 65% sold. The biggest hand-picked lot of about the same size as the December sale at which the average price was \$144. Pastels were 100% sold on the same basis. The December sale of Kohinar mink was 100% sold and realized the same basis as in December, namely, \$8.35 per pelt. Standard mink was regarded as stronger. Some parties in sales rooms believed it was up 5%. The average price in December was \$10.12 and for the low grades \$3.78.

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- NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

The Surname MacIsaac

I had long noticed the name MacIsaac in the "papers" and wondered how it came about that such a mixed name took its root in Scotland. Then I read in the National Geographic Magazine, of British Ambassador Mackesack, and later of Donald McKisack; Campbell's History, and these names prompted an enquiry in this column.

In response I received a letter from Mrs. M. B. Ross who explains the subject in most satisfying fashion. "Your recent article," she writes, "on the name of McKesick, was interesting, and the following may throw some light on this name."

"Originally in my father's day, the name was spelled MacIsaac. This family now MacIsaac—lived at China Point (Cheney's Point) originally, another corrupted name, Lot 50; and the name McKesick, which ever hears it today; but one must conclude that Mackesick or McKesick was correct.

"This family came from Scotland, but I have never encountered the name MacIsaac in Scottish writings. In Campbell's History of P. E. I., the 1798 census by Robert Fox, Deputy Surveyor, gives the name Donny McKisick in Lot 35, name Rod, McKisick in the same lot. In Lot 47 Allan McKisick is listed, both spelled with "i" instead of "e". The name could easily change through a neglected art in pioneering days and the educated were few, so McKisick could easily become MacIsaac.

"The name Gillies also had the "i" on "P. E. I. Scotmen" who from "Gillies." However it is pleasant to read that Mr. J. A. Gillies is pioneering in the correct spelling. A native of Argyll told me that this name who spelled Gillies, is pronounced Gillis, not Gillies; and that the sept originated in Argyllshire.

"The English family name 'Panton' has suffered at the hands of the present generation who spell it Panton. When the Scottish clans were proscribed, quite a few Scots found their way to Central Europe. A MacGregor became Grog, the name MacLeod, who reached Poland, became Mele, Macdonald, among the Poles, was the only one who held his name, and in the aftermath of Poland's wreck, the name was changed to Mac, a member of the clan, and his wife, found their way back to Scotland, where the Macdonalds helped re-establish them. This item I found in a paper I read for many years before War I, and for some years following.

"The Times was strong on fact, it names a very interesting fact. There is a name Ross was of Norman origin, De Ros. With De Brus they found themselves in offering was by the Mutation Mink Breeders Association of the United States, which is the strongest organization in the U. S. A. They advertised extensively a claim to have most of the great mink breeders in membership. Thursday's offering consisted of 4,500 Royal Pastel dressed, 3,000 White mink dressed, 3,500 Royal Kohinar mink, mostly raw, 5,000 Blue Frost mink, mostly raw. The following day we will offer 40,000 standard ranch mink, a fresh collection of the Great Lakes Mink Association, and 25,000, a fresh collection of the United Mink Breeders Association. We hope to give our mink farmers full information on this, one of the most important sales that will be held during the season.

Last week, three of Queen's County's largest breeders of silver fox, J. A. MacDonald and son Clifford, whose ranch is situated on the Mount Edward Road, Arthur Roper, whose ranch is also on the Mount Edward Road, and William Jenkins of Frenchfort, took upwards of 800 silver fox and mutation pelts to Summerside to the Canadian National Silver Fox Fur Pool, Ltd. We did not have the opportunity of looking over the collection but we understand from good judges that it was a really worth while one and a great credit to the ranchers and caretakers who produced them.

Montreal Fur Sales Ltd. held an auction of 5,000 standard and mutation fox Jan. 9th. Prices on Platina ranged from \$8.50 to \$21.00. White Faces from \$8.50 to \$12.50. "C" Silvers sold well at from \$9.50 to \$15 with good average around \$13. Inferior types were 95% sold at from \$6 to \$10.50.

Scotland after Norman days. Yours sincerely, Matilda B. Ross. I welcome Mrs. Ross back to this column. There is no doubt that the original form was McKesick, as she declares, and so we pass on to "Gillies." I have come on this spelling in England several times, but never on "Gillies." The name is derived from the Gaelic and means an attendant on a chieftain; and has a connection, though distant, with the Latin "Filius," a Willis is another form. An Island name, Gillespie means "The Bishop's attendant" or boy, from the Latin "Episcopus," a Bishop. With regard to the name "Panton," his name was Timothy. Do readers recall that the Russian General Timoshenko was said to be the descendant of a Welsh adventurer who settled in Russia long ago? His name was Timothy Jenkins, and the Russians got it twisted! (Hm... I have dots.) Both Saxons and Normans took refuge in Scotland, mostly in Fife from the anger of William I. That is his behavior after the battle of Bannockburn. Sir Walter Scott, one of the very few Scottish nobles who fell in that battle, was so dearly beloved by Edward, that he wished the victor had been lost, so Ross had lived!

Nature Notes Mr. Amran Scheinfeld, well known scientific writer, has an article in the Boston Sunday Advertiser of Dec. 26, 1948, dealing with certain hereditary traits. Queen Johanna of Holland has four daughters, no sons; the Queen of Egypt, and the Queen of Iran, have daughters only, and have, in consequence, been divorced. (Queen Elizabeth of England had daughters only, though this hardly comes into the article.) Mr. Scheinfeld concludes that the frailty of the male organism, both before and after birth, may have something to do with this phenomenon. He does not admit that there is no scientific reason why only daughters should be born to another, royal or otherwise. And he notes that the males are born in the ratio of 100 to every 100 daughters, but their frailty continues through life and in the higher age groups there are more women surviving than men. However, this phenomenon—this ratio of daughters—is a common one. I have observed, in the annals of Northumberland, that the great estates all changed owners at times, by failure of the male line and the marriages of heiresses. Only, in those days there were no newspapers or other means to publish these happenings to the world; and no genetic note was taken. I have sometimes wondered if there was not an "alternation of generations" connected with the phenomenon? King George V had five sons and one daughter, King Edward VI had two daughters only. Princess Elizabeth has a son—who fits in with my theory. The other sons of King George V had both sons and daughters; exceptions to my theory, which the geneticists must explain!

There is, in another direction, no trace of the alternation of generations. Henry I was an able King, highly successful in dealing with the national problems of his time. His grandson, Henry II, was the first of the Plantagenets. His intellect was clear and his will strong. He ruled with prudence and impartiality and sometimes with a hard temper. He restored the debased coinage, and revived industry and commerce. Edward I (1272-1307) was a brave soldier and a skilful general. He studied and worked all his life to extend English authority over all Britain. He continued the Parliament as established by Simon de Montfort, and always asked it for

mixed trends prevailed in the first cattle trading session of the year. Some steer classes were up 50c in the east, Western markets opened with spirited buying on domestic account but later, under increased offerings and lack of export demand, sales were in many cases 50c to 75c lower at the close. Calf prices were steady to 1c higher, notably at Montreal and Winnipeg. Hogs made a further gain at Toronto and Calgary; and lambs sold steady to stronger.

Live Stock Market Review SUMMARY Mixed trends prevailed in the first cattle trading session of the year. Some steer classes were up 50c in the east, Western markets opened with spirited buying on domestic account but later, under increased offerings and lack of export demand, sales were in many cases 50c to 75c lower at the close. Calf prices were steady to 1c higher, notably at Montreal and Winnipeg. Hogs made a further gain at Toronto and Calgary; and lambs sold steady to stronger.

Stocks and Feeder Cattle Stocker and feeder trade was at a low ebb, with supplies extremely tight and no particular demand at the moment. Toronto reported no offerings of any account, while Winnipeg had a narrow demand for the small offering and priced medium to good stocker and feeder steers at \$16 to \$19. Calgary showed a steady trend and quoted good feeder steers at \$18 to \$19. Edmonton quoted good feeder steers at \$17 to \$19. While there was no demand for stocker material at Saskatoon and other markets, there was no offering and trading was practically non-existent.

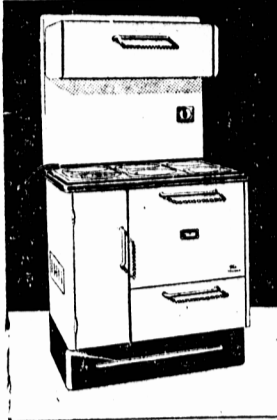
Calf Market Calf markets were steady to stronger, with most strength displayed at Montreal and Winnipeg. Toronto held \$28 to \$31 for best veal calves, while Montreal advanced to a top of \$30. Winnipeg \$1 stronger up to \$30. Calgary \$20 to \$21. Edmonton up to \$22. Saskatoon \$20 to \$26, Regina \$23.

Hog Market Only change to note in hog prices was an advance of 50c at Toronto. Other centres were virtually unchanged from the previous week. Grade A hogs moved up to a close of \$32 at

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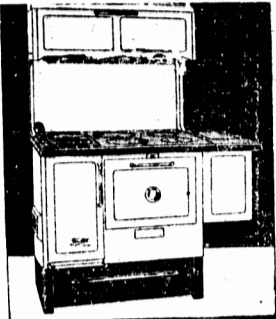
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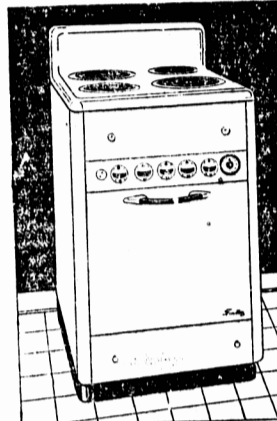
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