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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Albert J. Feldman of A. Holland and Son, New York, predicts that 1950 will see a terrific swing to color in fur wearing apparel, all part of an evolutionary process which has clicked in other fields and progressed slowly but steadily in recent years in furs. Mr. Feldman says, "We saw definite signs of this in trend in 1949 more than in the entire previous decade. Now we know that colored furs are no longer a novelty and they are definitely part of a new trend. Last week this firm stated showing a new line of fur on muskrat fur garments. These new hues have been named: Brandy, Royal Mist, Chestnut, Ale, Pearl Grey, Malacca, Sand, Emerald Green, Midnight Blue, Mint and Blue Fox. The trend to colored furs is, in Mr. Feldman's opinion, an evidence of woman's desire to express herself as an individual.

to 20 per cent too high for the American buyers. The entire collection went to European buyers. Hudson's Bay Company's silver fox offering attracted good bidding for three-quarters with interest also noted in halves and darker shades of full silver fox. Other types including platinum were mostly withdrawn. The top price for silver fox was 13 pounds. Top price for quality silvers, selected and good colors, \$29.50; three-quarter silvers selected and good colors, \$35.00; ordinary colors \$9.00; full silvers selected and good colors \$24.00.

Anning Chadwick and Kiever Ltd., silver fox offering followed the Hudson's Bay Company. They report 30 per cent sold at prices roughly 20 per cent above the pre-valuation levels of last year. The collection consisted of old season goods and went to European buyers. Norwegian sections were best received. The auction house in its official report states Grade B's and better three-quarters, halves and dark full silvers sold well with good competition. Grade C's and all light full silvers were generally neglected. Platins sold only in best colors. Pearl platins were neglected. Top prices were, full silvers \$33.80; three-quarter silvers \$31; half silvers \$27; platins \$25. In converting the above sales reports from English pounds to Canadian money we used \$2.80, which is the devaluation to bring the pounds to United States currency. Figures would be 10 per cent better in Canadian currency.

We have received from Lampson, Fraser and Huth, Inc., New York, report of their mink auction sale of the 10-11-12. Offered, 35,844 standard and starlight (half-blood) mink, sold 40 per cent; top price \$36.50 for Starlight males; Royal Pastel—offered 12,012 pelts, sold 64 per cent; top price \$45. For light medium males Steward Silverbu—offered 993 pelts, for light medium males. Silverbu—offered \$45.94 pelts, sold 63 per cent; top price \$32 for light medium, 1,855 pelts, sold 76 per cent; top price \$18. Pale males. Blue Frost—raw, offered 2,174 pelts, sold 90 per cent; top price \$25 for extra dark and dark males. Lampson, Fraser and Huth will hold another

B. C. Tests New Spring Bulbs

Some interesting facts and possibilities concerning the production of anemone and ranunculus flowers have been released by J. H. Crossley, of the Dominion Experimental Station, Saanichton, B. C., after several years testing on the Vancouver Island Station. He says that the anemone, of which the St. Bridgid is the most common type with its mostly semi-double, poppy-like flowers, has demonstrated satisfactory winter hardiness and commercial value in the Victoria area. While the ranunculus is considered as yet only semi-hardy and may need periodic renewal or replacement if fall planting is relied upon, both kinds suggest a means of augmenting British Columbia's revenue.

In this country no other flower of similar season offers such a wide variety of colour, brightness of tone and superb staking and lasting quality as the ranunculus. From tuber or seed, flowering stage is quickly reached. Normally the Canadian supply of plants is met with improved seed and more especially with the dormant tubers which reproduce the true variety. Limited plantings and small scale tests indicate, however, that the seed source need not be entirely relied upon if the favourable re-conditions of the milder areas of the coast of British Columbia are significant.

Spring flowers from British Columbia's bulb fields bring to the province an estimated annual quarter-of-a-million dollars. This is mainly derived from the sale of field grown daffodils, tulips and various spring flowering kinds are narcissus, snowdrops and so on. Both anemone and ranunculus are two other kinds which stand out with considerable promise. These are not true bulbs in the botanical sense, both being members of the buttercup family. While relatively unknown to Canadians, they are highly regarded by our more flower conscious European cousins. On this continent ranunculus are not an unusual sight to Californians as in that State they thrive readily.

WORLD MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in 1948 in the major producing areas of the world was at about 90 per cent of the war output, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reports.

There was a small increase in milk production in Europe in 1948—primarily a result of higher yields per cow brought about by a much improved feed situation. While total European feed supplies in 1948-49 were still below the pre-war level, they nevertheless were far higher than in the preceding year, when very bad weather was the rule.

The 1948 increase in milk production in Europe were general. Every country except Czechoslovakia, Denmark, and Sweden showed an increase as a result of the material gain in available feed-stuffs.

The increase in Europe, plus an increase of about 4 per cent in Oceania was enough to offset a small decline in total milk production in North America. In the United States, the world's largest milk producing country, production was maintained at 97 per cent of the 1947 level, despite the fact that cow numbers were at the lowest point since 1930. This was accomplished through higher yields per cow. In Canada, as a result of a decline in the output per cow, production fell off three per cent, even though cow numbers increased.

For other parts of the world where milk production is important there is a scarcity of information. In South American countries there appears to have been a substantial increase in milk output between 1944-48 and 1947 or 1948. This is probably what happened in some of the African countries also.

Before the war, the USSR was one of the largest milk producing countries. During the war it acquired additional important dairying areas, and it appears that total milk production in 1948 may have been in the neighbourhood of 18 to 20 million tons—about 75 per cent of the pre-war production in present boundaries.

Canada Protects Grain Cargoes

Years ago piracy on the high seas was more common than it is today, and was punishable by death. But pirates still go to sea in the form of insects which pillage the food in ships' holds to the tune of millions of dollars. And they too, are punishable by death. Just as were the pirates of old. Their death sentence comes under the provisions of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act Regulations, administered by the Plant Protection Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

For a number of years the Division of Entomology has carried out extensive research work on the protection of such foods as grain in storage, on the farms, at railway elevators, at elevators at the Lake heads and ocean ports, and also during railway transportation. A most satisfactory organization for the protection of Canadian produce has resulted.

Early in the war, the British Ministry of Food requested the Canadian Government to extend these protective measures to include the inspection of ocean vessels carrying such produce to the United Kingdom from Canada. This was the beginning of a ship inspection program that is administered by the Division of Plant Protection in Canada at the ports of Halifax, Saint John, Quebec, Three Rivers, Sorel, Montreal and Vancouver.

The importance of this vessel inspection was so evident that it was not only continued after the war, but was expanded to apply to all exports of grain or cereal products through any Canadian port and consigned to any country.

In the early days many cases were found of large accumulations of old grain and other plant material in various sections of ships' holds; good breeding places for insects. Many of the ships examined disclosed large numbers of stored product pests. Entomologists were emphatic that if these insect-infested ships were left unchecked, the pests would do damage of considerable proportions during the ocean voyage, and cause a high quality Canadian product to be delivered to the purchasing country in an unsatisfactory condition.

Complete cleaning followed by fumigation of the ship's hold is found to be the only efficient method in severe cases of infestation, but spot spraying is used if the brood of the insects is not so severe.

Compared with the early years of this work, the records show a decided improvement in the condition of the holds of ships entering Canadian ports. Shipping officials and crews are co-operating with Departmental officials in their fight to rid the grain-carrying ships of these insect pests. During the quarterly period July 1-September 30, 1949, cargoes consisting of 51,879,928 bushels of wheat and other grain, 122,417 tons of flour and 4,002 tons of cereal products, valued at over \$130 million, were given this inspection service, involving hold inspections of 360 ocean-going vessels in berths from Vancouver to Halifax.

In 1949, 2,305,000 gallons of maple syrup and 1,787,000 pounds of maple sugar were produced in Canada.

Caragana is a valuable hedge and shelterbelt plant.

DANGEROUS RELICS

WINNIPEG — (OP) — Two danger calls in one day were answered by the bomb disposal unit at Fort Osborne barracks. A radio shop reported a set containing a bomb detonator had been brought in for repairs and a city foundry found a 25-pound artillery shell in a heap of scrap metal. Both war relics were disposed of.

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NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

This is sometimes called the American Goldfinch in the books, and the "Wild Canary" by the country-folk. "The golden-plumed American Goldfinch (Astragalinus tristis) is a gay rover in the fields of summer. His coat of brilliant yellow, varied with black on the long wing and tail feathers, and his clear lively "twit" make him an attractive bird as he bounds about the summer pastures rifling seeds from the downy groups of synchroous plants. He is here from May till October. The nest is built on a small tree, and is the most neatly constructed of any of our birds' nests, containing five nearly pure white eggs."—Bain, 1891.

Synchroous is a term applied to plants in which the flowers grow united in "heads" as in the dandelion, thistle, sunflower and other composite flowers. The Goldfinches are not insect destroyers to any extent, but they are useful as feeding on the seeds of noxious weeds like the dandelion and others bearing plumed seeds. Later, the birds revel in the seeds of the Canada and other thistles. This class of plants, once established, is very difficult to eradicate, and without our bird friends to assist us we would find the work almost impossible.

Eastern or American Goldfinch, locally "Canary," AOU, 529. Fairly common summer visitor in 1924, but few observed lately (1949). Male, summer plumage bright canary yellow, except the crown, wings, and tail, which are black. Wings and inner webs of the tail feathers white; tail notched, upper tail coverts gray, lower wing coverts yellow. Female much duller; yellowish brown above, dull yellow below; wings and tail blackish; wing coverts olive-green or grayish. Winter males and immature birds resemble the females in general. Length of adult 5.5 inches.

Mouse for naming.

I received a small parcel containing a mouse and a short note: "Dear Agricola, I killed this little mouse in the woods this morning. Is it the kind that gnaws the pine tree roots? An interested reader of Agricola's Notes (No name) has delivered to the purchasing country in an unsatisfactory condition. Complete cleaning followed by fumigation of the ship's hold is found to be the only efficient method in severe cases of infestation, but spot spraying is used if the brood of the insects is not so severe."

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The U. S. Biological Survey found that these mice fed on a great variety of seeds, fruits, roots, and succulent vegetables, and laid up winter stores in hollow logs, etc. In winter when stores fall, they will gnaw the bark and roots of deciduous trees.

The Pine Mouse, Pitmy's planterium, has been reported as a newcomer to P. E. I., and I hope some reader will send me in for description. I have a picture that shows it as a stout, chunky little animal with a large head. Pine mice gnaw the bark of both coniferous and deciduous trees.

The Pennsylvania Meadow Mouse is very destructive to our orchard trees by gnawing the bark and roots.

Starlings are pests.

Letter from Professor D. C. Schurman, of the Experimental Station, City, reads in part: "Dear Agricola, I was interested in your recent article on Red-winged Blackbirds. Every spring for the past twenty years I have seen a pair—sometimes two pairs—of 'red-

that sea is neither navigable nor to be traced out, being blocked by the great depth of mud which the subsiding island produced.

On this fragment poets and antiquaries have built the story of the lost continent of Atlantis whose inhabitants were the most warlike, most learned, and most civilized people of their time. Strongly has the tradition survived that within the last few weeks a British exploration party has been detailed to look for traces of the mysterious missing continent of the floor of the Atlantic ocean. They have new scientific apparatus to add the search.

But did the continent actually sink? A glance at the "Mercator projection" map shows that if two American continents if moved eastward, would fit western Europe and Africa, like the parts of a jigsaw puzzle. Was North America the traditional Atlantis which did not sink as believed, but was pushed westward by some great cataclysm? Do not say "Impossible" for nature was both pliant and violent in the days when the earth was young.

There rolls the deep where grow the trees, O earth, what changes thou hast seen! There, where the long street roars hath been The stillness of the central sea. Was the Arizona meteorite the motive power. We must leave the question for discussion next week.

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The Lost Atlantis.

Plato, the great Athenian philosopher, (430-348 B. C.), wrote in his "Timaeus"— "Subsequently, however, through violent earthquakes and deluges which brought desolation in a single day and night, the whole of your warlike race was at once merged under the earth; and the Atlantic island itself was plunged beneath the sea, and entirely disappeared; and whence even now

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