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G. R. MacQUARRIE,
Summerside



Balkan countries reacted with new and feverish preparations to Germany's reported demand on Hungary for free passage of its troops toward Rumania. Britain, with a good prospect of using Salonica as a base for counter-moves, was reported attempting to weld an alliance of Turkey, Bulgaria, Rumania, Greece and Yugoslavia for a united stand against aggression. Yugoslavia was especially anxious. With 300,000 troops under arms, she was calling another 300,000 to the colors and preparing to block her harbors against Italian warships. The map shows how Allied Near-East forces might move from Salonica to meet Germans in Rumania.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Frank Hamm, mount herpet, has had a remarkable increase from two white face ring neck males of the Welch McNeill strain bought last fall. In his own ranch they have produced 99 pups and there is one offspring mating to hear from. Frank kept 31 females and these have produced 137 living pups. We wonder if the above is not almost a record for two males. It seems, however, we can remember a big increase in the John A. Lea ranch some years ago from a Magic male. Will somebody please supply the information.

Tyndall Temple, Kensington, has 46 pups from nine females. Art Dawson, North Tryon, has the best luck in years, his average being four to the pair. George E. Brown's Marate ranch averages four pups, over four to the pair.

Dogs running loose have caused severe casualties in at least two ranches in the vicinity of Charlottetown. In one where a dog got over the guard fence five litters were lost. In another, four litters were lost and one female killed by a dog. Ranchers had better look to the guard wire and see that there are no openings that dogs can get through.

Tomato pomace is the term applied to the dried residue that remains after the preparation of tomato juice. The pulp, seeds, skin and some of the original pulp. Three properties of this tomato pomace has attracted the attention of scientists recently in their efforts to improve feeding mixtures which were being developed for dogs, foxes and mink. Tests made on rats found that there was a definite medicinal and nutritive quality to the pomace. It is now being incorporated in a number of dried dog feeds. It should also have definite value for foxes and mink.

Hal and Russel Spillet, City, wintered 45 females. These whelped 190 pups and there is one litter to come. Eric Coles, North Milton, kept eight females and has 30 nice pups. Stanley Willis, Kingston, kept 12 females and they whelped 56 pups. There were two litters of seven. Choman's, Kingston, kept eight females and they whelped 34 pups. M. W. Wood, Southport, has opened 15 dens and counted 64 pups.

Fur of Canada, published in Winnipeg, April number, is devoted almost entirely to Canadian platinum and white face foxes. Page three has a splendid article by head of the McNeill herd, owned by Ollie McNeill, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, and an excellent article by Mr. McNeill's white faces. There are other illustrations such as the J. E. Hough of Moosejaw strain of foxes, L. B. Burrough's, Chaplain, Saskatchewan, platinum, C. Holman's, Moosejaw, strain of platinum, Em-See-Kay Fox Ranch, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, P. D. McNeill, Edmonton, Alberta, formerly of this Province, A. M. Doyle, Winnipeg, Colpitts Brothers, Salisbury and Calgary, Dr. J. E. LaForest, City of Quebec, W. H. Coultter of Calgary and several others, all producing white face ring neck or platinum strain foxes.

There are several ads for blue foxes notably Crichton Fox Ranch, Clarkleigh, Manitoba, who are breeding the Greenland Arctic type blue foxes. These are the kind selected by Fromm Bros., of Hamburg, Wisconsin, last fall so they must be okay.

Our congratulations are due to Fur of Canada on having produced such an attractive number. The illustrations are particularly good, notably the group of new type foxes produced by Colpitts Brothers of Salisbury, N. B., and the McNeill head of herd fox and a lady wearing two white eared platinum Colpitts strain.

Lampson, Fraser and Huth, Inc., will offer 10,000 silver fox for the American National in New York next Friday and on Monday they will offer 32,000 fresh ranch mink for the same concern.

1,174 silver fox pelts were offered at the Winnipeg Fur Auction last Monday. Full silvers brought from \$20 to \$33; full silvers (off-color) \$14.50 to \$21; three-quarter silvers \$11 to \$25; three-quarter silvers (off-color) \$12.50 to \$18.50; half silvers \$18.50 to \$21; half silvers (off-color) \$12.50 to \$14.50; quarter-silvers, \$9.75 to \$14.00. White fox ones and two sold from \$15. to \$17.25. Marten ranged in price from \$17. to \$49.50. Cross fox brought from \$11.50 to \$25.00.

Muskrats were very active. Large sizes brought prices 40 to 50 per cent higher than last April and other grades brought prices advanced 100 per cent. Selected Ontario XX's part large, fetched \$2.20, which was the highest price.

Norwegian platinum four pelt pelts are being featured by the famous New York furrers Bonwit Teller. Here is part of the ad: "Our super-platinum foxes have brilliant white heads and tails to contrast with the pale, spun silver frosting of the body, the definite stripe down the middle. Doesn't the thought of a supple jacket, rich and luxurious looking

A LARGE PUP CROP

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Saint John New Brunswick

in its moonlit beauty sound the height of chic? A platinum fox jacket which twelve months ago would have been priced at \$15,000 now here for you at \$1,500. Scarfs too, from \$295 each skin."

New York bought heavily in the marion catalogue of the Hudson's Bay Company's sale in London last week. Arctic and Alaskan blue fox advanced 75 per cent. Norwegian blue fox advanced 50 per cent. Swedish blue fox advanced 75 per cent. Cross fox advanced 32 1-2 per cent. Canadian red fox advanced 35 per cent.

Silver fox and mink breeders in Great Britain have had to curtail their operations very considerably since the war started. Some have gone out of business completely, others have joined up and the foxes or mink have been cut down in numbers and the women of the household are taking care of them.

While the American government has ruled platinum, Norwegian and other silvers and subject to the same duty of 35 per cent, the Canadian government has ruled otherwise. Restrictions are placed on the importation of silver and black foxes but platinum fox pelts may still be imported without restriction. The idea in placing the curb on silver fox importations was to prevent Scandinavian countries shipping their skins to Canada and thence to the United States where they would cut down our quota.

Ranch mink sold to good advantage at the sale conducted yesterday by the New York Auction Company. The medium and cheaper grades advanced 10 per cent, with the top price being \$16.75. Seventy-two per cent of the offering changed hands. Wild mink sold up to \$11.10, and had a turnover of 61 per cent. Western beaver also showed a 10 per cent price advance, but a drop of 5 per cent was reported on darker skins, which encountered price resistance. The top on beaver was \$35.50.

The Peruvian government is anticipating the development of chinchilla breeding in that country and have issued a decree providing for the regulation of the industry. Hunting of chinchilla will be prohibited except for the establishment of farms and such farms will be tax-free for a period to be determined by the Government.

Curiously enough California has become quite a fur farming country. Of course the industry is carried on in the mountains where there is plenty of snow and low temperatures are experienced. Just in the vicinity of Los Angeles there are 30 farms carrying about 2,000 breeding foxes.

No more silver or black fox furs can be shipped from Canada until December 1st. The United States has just announced that Canada has exceeded its quota of 38,300 furs for the year ending November 30th. Other countries may ship 7,400 fox furs between April 1st and November 30th. During the months of November, December and January, no way was reported a total of 274,024 silver foxes which were valued at approximately \$4,000,000. Of this total 187,787 were shipped to England, 38,366 to Germany and 41,833 to the United States. The average price obtained was about \$15 per pelt. The average price on full silvers was almost \$30.

Experiments carried out at Ohio State University where, by the way, our friend P. O. Gearhart is a member of the staff, prove that a large number of weeds have been found to contain a high percentage of Vitamin C. Those showing the highest percentages were milkweed, -keweenaw, dandelion, watercress, sorrel and skunk cabbage. Our ranchers would do well to have patches of good grass sown ready for cutting during the early months of Spring and Summer, then shift to lettuce and Swiss chard and later on to vegetables. It has been definitely proved that the grasses have not only a remedial tonic effect but also aid growth.

The Betts Fur Salon, Mrs. Florence Betts, Proprietor, located in the upper floor of the Stanley, Shaw and Peardon building has been doing a wonderful trade in silver fox pelts. Many of the most beautiful scarfs one sees worn in the city and country were made up by Mrs. Betts. Her trade has grown so much that she has had to build a cold storage plant to take care of her customers' furs during the summer months.

The European war has created renewed interest in raising and selling in England the idea being to provide a cheap source of meat supply; but the breeders are also paying attention to the development of good quality pelts. These are used as linings for aviators' helmets and other war purposes as well as for articles connected with military's adornment.

Rabbits form a very interesting hobby for boys and where space is available they should be encouraged. We know of a lad about fourteen years old who has had much success in raising them. A recent litter of eight shows several white face, ring necks, a black, grey and white, black and white and two platinum. They are really beautiful and Bobby MacLeod, the boy in question, deserves great credit for the knowledge of breeding, as has shown and the ability to do properly. Due credit must be given to Kilmer MacMillan who assisted him in the breeding operations.

Norwegian fox breeders have had a hard time the past few months

Farmers Attention

Just arrived, car of Northern Ontario Seed. If you need any kind of seed field or row we have it and at a price that will save you money on No. 1 seed. Nitro Culture Form-aldehyde and Corrosive Sublimite also in stock and I want Mr. MacMillan to come and inspect my seed at once.

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Ideal for disinfecting stables, fox pens, poultry houses, etc.

Widely used in I.B. Area and accredited herd work.

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Quebec and Maritime Branch
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and still harder since the Germans have invaded their country. Sometime ago they brought co-operative pressure on the whale meat combine with the result that the price on whale meat was lowered to about four cents per pound. Another cheap food used by Norwegian breeders is a sort of cream cheese



Facing around Buckingham palace during the four days, the Royal 2nd Regiment from Montreal took over guard duties, this French-Canadian soldier has the Queen Victoria memorial behind him.

made from skim milk. In recent notes we pointed out the advantages of skim milk as proven by scientific research. We ourselves feed skim milk powder to the extent of about 4 per cent of the diet and we do find it good. We intend to use it all summer and in heavier quantities towards fall, as we believe it will give us fuller furred pelts. Situated as we are skim milk is not available, hence we use the powder, but farmers are not obliged to do so and have a much cheaper source of supply than we have, in skim milk.

RE PRICES

On the basis of a study of the reports of one of the large London Fur Auction Sales Houses we will remark as follows: "Rather than to compare the April 1940 Auction of Silver Fox with that of the January sale of this year, it is more profitable comparison with the corresponding sale of last year, held on March 24th to 28th. Let us consider the half silvers on both sales. At the summer 1939 sale they sold for an average of \$14.84 when the pound was being exchanged at \$4.70. This year on the April sale halves averaged \$21.14, an advance of \$6.30 or a gain of 43 per cent. (\$4.44). Three-quarter silvers sold in March '39 for an average of \$17.00. This year on the April sale they sold for \$22.08 a gain of \$5.08, showing an advance of 30 per cent over the corresponding sale of 1939.

Full silvers in March '39 averaged \$21.03 while this year they sold at \$22.29 a gain in price of \$2.26 or an advance of 11 per cent in the twelve months.

Note the good comparative showings made by the half silvers which on this year's April sale realized within a dollar of the price gotten for the three-quarters and only \$2.15 less than for the fulls.

We think in referring to the sale of March 1939 we make a more synoptic comparison than if we compared the April sale with the January sale of this year, which has the distinction of being the "All-time low." A percentage comparison in this latter case is not quite so informative as one would wish.

There is naturally now a keen demand following such a comprehensive marketing as took place in April when a more-than-95 per cent disposal was effected. The demand is good and prices advancing, so cheer up.

To be quite fair we might remark in connection with the March 1939 Auction that quite a good percentage of fair-quality and better-class skins were not sold on this sale and this had doubtless to some extent lessened the average that would otherwise have resulted.

Perhaps never in the history of the Silver Fox industry has orderly marketing so conclusively prevailed on its worth as it is doing this year. If one were to figure up—for the ranchers who last fall hawked their pelts from door to door, or otherwise passed them over to speculators—an account of the losses they have thus sustained, the results would surprise them.

From Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association.
Per.
P. J. WILLIAMS.

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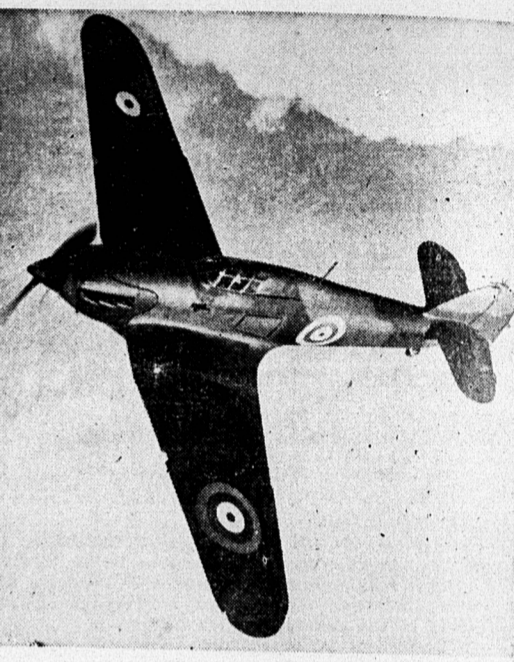
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In recent weeks certain Hawker Hurricane and Supermarine Spitfire single-seat fighters of the R.A.F. have been fitted experimentally with cannon. One of each machine has brought down a enemy bomber. The Spitfire engaged a Dornier D017 and shot it down with six rounds. Shown here in a steep bank.



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