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

Reports we have heard from fox farms are to the effect that production is smaller than last year. The reason given for this was that the season was late and quite a number report females unmated. There has not been as many losses among pups born as far as we can ascertain, and that may be due to the fact that there was not so much severe cold this season as is usually the case. In the Vimy Ranch our matings were on the average much later than usual and there are still quite a number of litters to arrive, some even as late as the middle of May.

The fox situation in Canada is unchanged since the sale in Montreal a few weeks ago. There has been some demand for small lots but no great number of skins has been disposed of. There has been no sign of price improvement in the United States either, and very few skins are finding their way to the public auctions. Just what quantities are held in reserve by big producers like Fromm's and Nieman's one cannot tell, but no doubt there is a large number in Canada. The situation in that respect is not nearly so bad and if we could get two or three good auction sales it would clear up most of the pelts in storage. Summing it all up it looks like another hard year for the fox rancher and not too bright prospects for the mink rancher, but one thing they have in their favor is that pelts are selling freely.

Last week our story of the Record Books of the Silver Black Fox Breeders' Association of Prince Edward Island ended with a brief reference to the Henry Lewis ranch at Alberton, P. E. I. This week the first ranch we mention is the Riverside Silver Black Fox Company, Summerside, P. E. I. This company was well managed and possessed a very famous line of foxes bred by Simmons & Lecky, Summerside, Magic Silver Black Fox Company—the offspring of Magic Jacob 2nd and Magic Beatrice—foxes of Jim Rayner breeding, A. E. Forythe of Alberton, C. B. Morris of Summerside, R. T. Oulton, Little Shemogue, N. B. and Frank F. Tuplin. Messrs. Simmons & Lecky appear next with foxes of Riverside and Magic breeding and other strains. They were among the best breeders of their era and their ranches furnished breeding stock that was valued highly. The Lecky name was continued by Mr. Lecky's sons and today the largest silver fox ranch in the Maritime Provinces is operated by J. Wilfred Lecky, Summerside, P. E. I.

Next appears the Provincial Silver Black Fox Company with foxes purchased from John Agnew, Alberton, and B. I. Rayner, Kildare, followed by the A. E. McLean, Co., Ltd., with foxes purchased from F. F. Tuplin in 1911, Capt. John Champlain in 1912, Harry Hunter and George W. Robinson, Summerside, John Agnew, Alberton, Willow Hill Co., Summerside and others bred by the company. Mr. McLean will be remembered as a representative of Prince County in the Dominion parliament for a great many years. He was so popular that his majorities were enormous. The A. E. McLean Company conducted breeding operations on quite a large scale, their registered foxes occupying five pages of the Herd Book. Mr. McLean continued his interest in the industry up to his death although he had ceased being a breeder quite a number of years before his demise.

The famous Silver Fox Ranching Company of Alberton, P. E. I., which we referred to before, occupies almost two pages of registrations in addition to those previously mentioned. These were foxes whelped in 1914 and 1915, the offspring of their foundation stock previously registered. The operations of the company were under the immediate supervision of F. L. Rogers, Alberton and breeders not only in the Maritimes but also in the United States where quite a number of their foxes were sent as foundation stock. Even today old-time ranchers will speak of the famous fox, Sir Wilfred, one of the company's foundation sires, bred by W. R. Oulton, Alberton, P. E. I. in 1911.

And now we introduce Dr. Leo Frank and the Rosebank Fur Farms Ltd., Charlottetown, P. E. I. Dr. Frank became interested in foxes in 1914 and invested quite a large amount of money in the Rosebank Ranch near Southport. He made selections from the W. R. Oulton, Park Island, Klondyke, Victoria Silver Black Fox Company, Silas Rayner, Henry Lewis, Woodstock Silver Black Fox Company, R. H. Sterns, Patricia Silver Black Fox Company, Henry Waugh, Wilmot Valley, W. A. Miller, Charlottetown, and other prominent fox men. His breeding stock must have cost a great deal of money and no expense was spared to put up a ranch that would not only be good to look at, but efficient. There is no question that Dr. Frank contributed a great deal in publicity as he had a gift along that line and wherever he went in Canada, the United States or overseas he extolled the qualities of the Prince Edward Island Silver Black Fox.

He paid a visit to Russia in an endeavor to make a deal with the government to exchange silver

black foxes for Russian sables. It very nearly carried through but some hitch occurred and the valuable animals did not get here. Had they done so an industry equal to fox ranching might have resulted as Russian sables are today the most expensive fur extant, a single pelt selling for as much as \$500. Rosebank Fur Farms occupies six pages of Vol. 1 and later on there are many registrations of offspring in Vol. 2. It was Dr. Frank who made the first shipment of foxes to Japan, establishing the industry there.

The Imperial Silver Black Fox Company, Montague, P. E. I. was another ranch that made a great contribution to the industry. It was under the management of R. W. Stewart. Their foundation stock was obtained from F. F. Tuplin and J. C. Tuplin in 1911, also from Silas Rayner and Hon. Charles Dalton in 1912. Names that figure prominently in pedigrees of great foxes are Imperial Silas and Imperial Helen, both bought from Silas Rayner, and Imperial Jessie and Imperial Jack bought from F. F. Tuplin. When buying pelts in the 1920's we remember seeing some beautiful blue black specimens and on asking Mr. Stewart their pedigree he would trace them back to these famous foxes. The Imperial Company continued into the 1930's and then when the depression came on it, like many others, passed out of the picture.

The next registration we take up is the Bunbury Black Fox Company, which was ranched on the premises of Franklyn Boyer, Bunbury, P. E. I. He was one of the principal shareholders. The original pairs owned by the Company were Fanny and Jack Rayner, bred by B. I. and Silas Rayner, Fred, also bred by them and also Killy B. and Stewart, bred by B. I. and Silas Rayner.

It was the writer's privilege to become well acquainted with the late Mr. Boyer and to have the pleasure of listening to him tell the story of his early breeding operations and of the good foxes supplied him by Silas Rayner. Mr. Boyer was a man that was successful in everything he undertook, as a horse breeder, a cattle breeder, he was one of the best and his judgment in selecting breeding stock was unexcelled. For a considerable time he carried on the cultivation of strawberries and of course Boyer strawberries were the finest obtainable, but I believe the fox industry was nearest to his heart of anything he touched and it was my privilege to visit his ranch and watch him handling little nibbles through the wire to his favorites.

The ranch was nicely situated in a spruce grove with plenty of shade that protected the pelts in the fall from the rays of the sun. I had been around quite a bit looking at foxes before I went to Mr. Boyer's the fall of 1919, but I will never forget the impression the ranch and foxes made on me that October afternoon. I bought six pairs, part for cash and part on credit and would have bought more only that my money was at an end. The next fall the industry received a big blow by the United States putting on a tariff of 50 per cent on pelts and 15 per cent on live foxes. When my notes came due I arranged for the bank to borrow the money to pay Mr. Boyer, made out a cheque including the p.p. interest. Mr. Boyer looked at it and said, "This is too much." I said, "no, that is the amount plus the interest." "I won't take any interest," he said, "things are hard." In fact he wanted to cut down on the price, but I insisted and he reluctantly took the full amount.

I have much to thank Mr. Boyer for and will always remember him with gratitude and respect. Year after year we purchased foxes from Mr. Boyer, some of which we took to the Exhibitions in Toronto and elsewhere and they won many of the highest awards including world's championships and International championships. There were three companies in the same ranch managed by Mr. Boyer, others being the Boyer Company owners of the famous Carrie Bluebird and the Boyer-Baker Silver Fox Company.

BATH, England—(CP)—A swan alighted on a railway line and held up two trains.

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#### MORELL EAST W I

The regular monthly meeting of Morell East W.I. was held on April 6th at the home of Mrs. Gordon Hooper. The meeting opened by repeating the creed in unison with seven members and two visitors present.

The main discussion was whether or not to have a concert. Result was to settle the discussion at the next meeting and obtain as many one act plays as possible. The secretary of the school was to pay for the blackboard recently purchased and write a complaint about its being damaged.

There were no reports from any committees. Roll call for the month of May is to pay one-half cent for each inch measured around the waist.

A delicious lunch was served by the hostess and the next meeting is to be at the home of Mrs. John Hughes. Helpers to be Mrs. John Cobb and Mrs. Maurice Runghan.

The meeting closed by singing the National Anthem.

### AUCTION SALE

AT GRAHAM'S ROAD  
 Owing to a complete change in my business I will sell by auction on my premises on Wednesday, May 4th, beginning at 1 P.M. All my live stock, balance of crop and farm equipment consisting of 2 work horses, 3 milch cows, 3 yearlings, 1 fat steer, 1 brood sow, 80 hens. Implements: Binder, mower, hay rake, gang plow, farm wagon (new), team sleigh, driving sleigh, cream separator, horse hoe, smoothing harrow, car tractor, farmer's boiler, pitcher pump, sleigh robe, a quantity harness, both double and single and all small articles used on a farm.

Terms cash.  
 If day is unfit sale on next fine day.

TUPPER TAYLOR  
 Hugh F. Morrison,  
 Auctioneer.

### Auction Sale

AT KENSINGTON  
 On account of a complete change in my business I will sell by auction on Monday, May 2nd, beginning at 1 P.M.

My complete household equipment consisting of Piano Extension table, kitchen range, a large quantity bedroom furniture including beds, bureaux, commodes, several small tables, rugs, rocking chairs, several odd chairs, writing desk, dishes and cooking utensils, buffalo robe, also 7 room house if not previously sold. This property contains good dwelling with garage, lot 105 ft. x 85 ft. and overlooks the entire town and will be sold to the highest bidder.

Terms Cash.  
 BERT KELLEY  
 Hugh F. Morrison,  
 Auctioneer.

### AUCTION SALE

Having sold my farm I will sell by auction on WEDNESDAY, MAY 11th, AT 1 O'CLOCK the following Stock and Implements:

2 work horses; 4 milch cows; 2 young cattle.  
 IMPLEMENTS: Farmall A Tractor; Tandem disc; 2-furrow tractor plow; 3 section lever harrow; 5 section spike harrow; 6-row Hall potato sprayer; sectional seeder; 3 potato hillers; potato cultivator; potato digger; tractor; 2 wheeled trailer; International hay loader; manure spreader (John Deere); Massey Harris binder; hay rake; turnip seed drill; truck wagon; cart; driving wagon; 1 express wagon; 4 wood sleighs, double and single; two-seated driving sleigh; single driving sleigh; Boggs potato grader; 2 gasoline engines; set of grain separators; Hall threshing machine and blower; 1 hay rope, 170 feet long; 2 hay ropes, 1 hay fork, six tined; 1 hay fork, 2 tined; set of 240 lb. scales; Jack screw; cream separator; 80 lb. cream can; 2 buffalo robes; 1 grain crusher, Massey Harris; Keystone-DeLorner 6-in. rubber belting; 2 sets of double blocks, and rope; oak meat-barrel; baskets; collars, hames, traces. Quantity hay and mixed feed (wheat, oats and barley); and other small articles too numerous to mention.

If day is unfit, sale first fine day.  
 TERMS CASH.  
 HUGH MORRISON,  
 Auctioneer. WALTER C. LEARD.

### AUCTION SALE AT YORK

MONDAY, MAY 2 AT 1 P. M.  
 I am instructed by Mr. Arthur Vesey to sell the following: 1 new cart; 1 new hay rake; 1 driving wagon; 1 truck wagon; 1 hay mower; 1 disc harrow; 1 scuffer; 1 miller; 1 cultivator; turnip seeder; iron harrows; driving sleigh; gang plow; single plow; hay fork and wire cable; 1 DeLaval Separator; Renfrew scales; grain crusher; harness. A quantity of hay and grain.  
 Tables; chairs; hall mirror; writing desk; kitchen range; bread mixer; ice cream freezer; 2 toilet sets; 2 commodes, and all other articles not mentioned.  
 TERMS CASH.  
 LESTER KEIZER,  
 Auctioneer.

### CLEARANCE AUCTION SALE

AT LYMAN TREMERE OF HAMPSHIRE  
 Having sold my farm I will sell by Auction on WEDNESDAY, MAY 11th, beginning at 1 O'CLOCK, all my Stock and Farm equipment consisting of—

One draft mare (6 yrs. old); one general purpose mare (6 yrs. old); one cow, Guernsey grade (9 yrs. old) freshened April 18; one cow, Guernsey grade (3 yrs. old) to freshen July 26; one cow, Guernsey grade (2 yrs. old) freshened April 27; one cow, Jersey grade (3 yrs. old) to freshen May 5; one cow, Ayrshire grade (3 yrs. old) to freshen Oct. 8; four yearling heifers, Shorthorn grade; two yearling heifers, Guernsey grade; two heifer calves, Shorthorn grade.  
 Tractor Machinery; Massey Harris tractor, 101 super standard; one power take-off hay mower, 6 ft. cut (M.H.); one set tan. disc harrows (F.W.); one three-furrow plough (Fleurey); one three-section lever harrows; one four-wheel trailer; one elevator potato digger; one potato picker; one binder (McCormick) 5 ft. cut; one hay rake; one two-row scuffer; one walking scuffer; one hiller and cart; one single plough; one potato planter; one manure spreader (F.W.); one set smoothing harrows; one turnip pulper; one team truck wagon; one cart; one wood sleigh with box; one box sleigh; one Renfrew separator with electric motor; one horse power electric motor; one one hundred lbs. cream can; one electric fence; one Renfrew scales (2,000 lbs.); one fire extinguisher; one incubator model (300 capacity); one coal brooder stove; one oil brooder stove; one can sealer with cutter attachment; harness; two work bridles; two sets collars and hames; one set team harness; one truck wagon pad and breeching; one cart saddle and breeching; two sets leather reins; one 25-gallon steel cask; set of swings; one cross-cut saw; one kitchen range (Capital Favorite); one set mat frames; 700 bushel mixed grain; 36 Plymouth car, in perfect condition, and other articles too numerous to mention.  
 Terms made known at sale.  
 If day is unfit, sale on first fine day.  
 ALEX McRAE, Auctioneer.

### AUCTION SALE

NORTH TRYON  
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 4th AT 1 O'CLOCK

Owing to ill health I will sell by Public Auction on above date the following Stock and Farm Implements:  
 2 Percheron brood mares (10 yrs. old); 1 Percheron filly (2 yrs. old); 1 Jersey milk cow (8 yr. old) newly freshened; 1 Jersey heifer (1 yr. old); 1 steer (2 yr. old); Deering hay mower; International hay loader; Massey Harris side delivery rake; double truck wagon (new); McCormick 6-ft. binder; Jno. Deere 2-row cultivator; potato planter; potato digger; fertilizer sower; riding horse hoe; Massey Harris disc harrow; set fanners; single plow; sloven; cart; Boggs grader; driving wagon; box sleigh; set bob-sleighs; 2 single wood sleighs; Francis jaunting sleigh; set spring-tooth harrows; set smoothing harrows; DeLaval cream separator; 16-ft. potato elevator; 6 h.p. gas engine (M.H.); 1 h.p. gas engine (Fairbanks); 2 sets double harness; 2 sets driving harness; collars, hames, traces, etc.; truck-wagon pad and breeching; cart saddle and breeching; quantity of straw; forks, shovels, hoes, etc.; 1 new Farmall Cub tractor, and numerous other articles found on an up-to-date farm.  
 TERMS: CASH.  
 If day unfit sale on next fine day following.  
 E. C. BELL, MAX E. LEFURGEY,  
 Auctioneer.  
 Tryon W. I. serving lunches at sale.