

MARITIME WINTER FAIR

AND FOX SHOW AMHERST, N. S. NOV. 5-11

The Greatest Show In Eastern Canada

Livestock and Educational Exhibits. Nightly Horse Show, Vaudeville and Tug-of-War, Midway

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



An invitation has been extended to the writer of this column by W. J. MacLeod, Secretary of the Royal Silver Fox Club of Sussex, N. B., to attend their second annual live fox show which will be held in Sussex October 20th and 21st.

In this issue of The Guardian appears the opening gun in the publicity campaign advertising the world's greatest fox show which will be held at Charlottetown commencing Monday, October 31st and continuing until Friday, November 4th.

The history of the Provincial Fox Exhibition reminds one that for several years prior to 1929 there had been an agitation among ranchers to have a local fox show, as there was none nearer than the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, which was available only to a limited number of exhibitors.

Major A. S. Robertson of Mermaid and J. Walter Jones of Burnside, together with other interested parties, took the matter seriously in hand the spring of 1929. The Government was waited on and agreed to provide a number of crates. The Provincial Exhibition Association offered their building for the show, and the necessary arrangements were made.

The next year a building specially adapted for judging was built known as the Paton Pavilion, with accommodation for several hundred spectators, a proper judging table and a neutral light diffused over the large skylights directly above. The plan of the building has been copied in several countries since as a basis for their judging rooms.

The new building and the aura of success engendered from the previous year brought a record number of entries—over 600. Visitors came in great numbers from other provinces with quite a few from the United States and several from Great Britain, Russia and Japan.

In 1931 distemper, that dread disease of the fox world, was raging, so the Exhibition was cancelled, but in 1932 the show was resumed and the number of entries reached the great total of 712—a world's record figure. Banquet night was a feature for the first time and caught on so well that it has been continued ever since. This year preparations are being made to accommodate 800 foxes and while that number may not be exhibited yet there is every reason to believe that the entries will reach somewhere near that figure.

Since 1929 there has been quite a change in silver fox breeding trends, but it has always taken a remarkable fox to win the Grand Championship. Those who have won that coveted honor are: 1919—A. L. Rogers, Summerside. 1920—Robert Baker, Summerside. 1921—A. L. Rogers, Summerside. 1922—Samuel Johnston, Fortune Bridge. 1923—W. W. Brown, Charlottetown. 1924—Ira D. Carr, Covehead. 1925—Roy Woodside, Malpeque. 1926—Stewart & Lewis, Summerside.

In 1929 black foxes were still highly regarded and many beautiful specimens of blacks, extra darks, dark silvers and dark mediums were often covered with deep veiling and the narrow bar was not frowned upon if the fox had other superior qualities. As the Americans commenced to make the wide bar and bright silver fashionable that

vogue communicated itself to the auctions in London and Paris and the fox breeders who had wisely specialized in that type made their way to the top of the table. It was fortunate for this Province that the Provincial Fox Exhibition at Charlottetown had been established, otherwise this trend might not have been noted so decidedly here and we might still be developing the narrow bar and veiled silver to our price detriment.

While to many of us the deeply veiled fox still is very beautiful, yet to get the money or attract attention with a peli one must have bright or "flashy" silver, as it is sometimes called. The contrast of a raven black or real good colored black neck and sparkling silver is vivid and arresting, provided it is backed up with other fur attributes.

There is a tendency to depreciate the quality of the silver foxes bred in the province today and to assume that we have retrograded rather than progressed. That is not the opinion of the writer who has attended a great number of exhibitions and viewed a great number of pelis. I believe that we are producing today the best foxes we have ever produced, but our climate is more particular because the enormous number offering gives such a wide variety of choice that to come to the top of the pile it takes a super-peli.

An invitation has been extended by the Summerside Fox Study Club to the Charlottetown Fox Study Club to attend their meeting in Summerside next Monday evening, October 17th. There will be a special interchange of ideas and two or three members of the Summerside club will speak, and the Charlottetown club is asked to prepare a list of ten questions for an evening's round table discussion.

On Thursday evening, October 27th, the Charlottetown Fox Study Club will hold their regular meeting in the Agricultural Hall at eight o'clock. The speaker of the evening will be Dr. C. E. Gunn of the Fox Experimental Station, Summerside. Dr. Gunn's talk will be of great interest to our local ranchers, who are invited to attend whether in membership or not.

Dr. R. H. MacDonald of Saskatoon, Sask., is advertising MacDonald Foxes in the American Fox Magazine. He believes that the extensive breeding of full silvers which has been practised for a number of years is rapidly destroying the silver fox industry. He claims that every breeder knows that a few generations of breeding full silvers results in loss of pigment in the guard fur, white under-

fur and nondescript brushes. Good black necks, slate blue underfur and good colored brushes disappear. His pet record includes topping the individual London auction sales on several occasions in 1933, producing the highest priced peli sold on the London auctions for the whole year. This year's production on his ranch from 114 breeders is over 400 pups. Dr. MacDonald is a native of Bellevue, P. E. I.

According to these records published in the American Fur Breeder, the United States fox rancher has not been getting very good prices for pelis. At the January 10th New York auction the average price was \$32.01. At another auction held a week later the average price was \$33.50. The March auctions in New York were slightly better, that of March 2nd prices averaged \$36.04 with 57 per cent sold. March 15th the average was \$33.76.

John P. Marx, Elmira, N. Y., is advertising beautiful large platinum silver fox males at \$400 each. He will show you how to breed them so you can get started with this new color phase. L. Miller of Alberta, recently sold five fine grade white faced silver foxes to the Jakhellin Platinum Fox Farms in Norway. One of the five brought him \$1,000. Mr. Miller is a native of Dunstaffnage, P. E. I.

A platinum fox breeders association has been formed in Norway to further the interests of breeders specializing in this new color phase. They are pushing the propaganda for all it is worth to get the cash in with big prices for pelis in London and create a demand for breeders as figures reminiscent of early fox days in P. E. I.

The Maeser Fur Farms, Inc., who formerly operated ranches in Prince Edward Island, have been closed out and the assets bought by Edward L. Rogers and associates for \$50,000, \$500,000 down and the balance spread over many payments.

The take of fur seals at the Pribilof Islands during the 1937 season total 58,364, which is an increase of six per cent over 1937 figures. In fact it is the largest take for forty-nine years. During the month of July 2400 silver black fox pelis were shipped from Alaska to the United States, which is probably the season's production.

The marriage of L. Lorne Wedlock of Westminster, Mass., Secretary of the New England Mink and Fur Breeders' Association, to Miss Esther Barbara Foss of Fitchburg, Mass., was celebrated at Fitchburg on September 9th. Mr. Wedlock is an Island boy, son of the late J. Stanley Wedlock, formerly of Charlottetown.

IF YOU HAVE been using Ross-Miller Vita-Crumble (Reg'd B) in feeding your foxes all season heretofore, swing over now to Ross-Miller Vita-Crumble (Reg'd A). This is the food for finishing pelis with good colour and gloss, and, as you know, dark, glossy, fur brings the price that pays the profit.

The SILVER FOX WORLD'S GREATEST EVENT!

At Charlottetown, P. E. I.

OCTOBER 31st TO NOV. 4th

This Classic of the Fox World Offers 25 Challenge Cups and Trophies Many of them magnificent specimens of the silversmith's art and VALUED AT \$1700.

BEAUTIFUL ROSETTE RIBBONS and CASH PRIZES for 43 SECTIONS TOTALLING UPWARDS OF \$2,000



Nowhere else in the world are such beautiful premiums and cash prizes awarded for Silver Foxes. The result is that the world's finest specimens of Silver Fox meet here and an opportunity is afforded to Silver Fox ranchers and the public generally to witness the progress that is being made in this great fur industry.

This Exhibition is the talk of the Silver Fox world and will be visited by prominent fur men and fox ranchers from other provinces. You cannot afford to miss this Show, either as an exhibitor or spectator.

There are classifications for darks up to 25 per cent, dark mediums, mediums, light mediums, pale silvers and extra pale silvers, subdivided into adults, yearlings and pups, males and females. Classes for herds, sire and three of his get, dam and two of her progeny, best matched pair male or female, adults and pups, nine Championships and a Grand Championship for best fox in Show.

Prizes will be awarded on the basis of number of entries, one to six entries three prizes, seven to eight entries four prizes, nine to ten entries five prizes, eleven to twelve entries six prizes, thirteen to fourteen entries seven prizes, fifteen to sixteen entries eight prizes, seventeen to eighteen entries nine prizes, nineteen to twenty entries ten prizes, twenty-one to twenty-five entries eleven prizes, over twenty-five entries twelve prizes. Money will be divided as follows:—1st \$12; 2nd \$9; 3rd \$6, remaining creditable qualifying entries \$1 each.

Grand Championship Trophy

A magnificent silver trophy will be awarded to the exhibitor winning the greatest number of points in the Show. Other trophies offered at this Silver Fox Show provide a great measure of attraction, interest and stimulation. The array of silverware which will be on display during the period of the Show is a magnificent one and merits the attention of our people.

Grand Banquet Canadian National Hotel

The annual Foxmen's Banquet will be held on Tuesday, November 1st, at the Canadian National Hotel and will be the highlight of the season. Only 140 tickets will be sold so as to avoid crowding and assure every guest of a pleasant and highly entertaining evening. Music, mirth and an unexcelled repast; short snappy speeches will be given by leading men and prominent authorities on Silver Fox ranching.

The time is short, the days will slip by quickly and it will be no time until the big Fox Show is on. Monday, October 31st will be receiving and classifying day, Tuesday morning sharp at nine o'clock judging will commence and will be continued until Friday afternoon when it should be completed, and the trophies awarded. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the first week in November will be days crowded with interest and enthusiasm. People from all over the Province, yes, in fact all over the fox world, will be watching and waiting for the results of this Fox Show. Breeders who desire to make a name for themselves in the fox world should send in entries. Accommodation has been set up for 600 foxes but many more can be looked after. Write to the Secretary for Prize List.

BRENTON CLARK, President WALTER R. SHAW, Secretary Summerside, P. E. I. Charlottetown, P. E. I.

NEWSY NOTES

By AGRICOLA

THE POND AT SOUTHPORT

Through the kindness of Professor Reddin, of Prince of Wales College, I have been enabled to visit the pond—really a water-garden—at Southport, and better still, have been permitted to take home specimens of the plants growing there. In order that I might examine them at leisure, there are, I believe, quite a few rock-garden in being, and under construction, in our Province, but as far as I know this is the only water-garden; so that a list of the Southport plants may prove useful as an incentive and guide to others.

First on the list comes our native Broad-leaved Arrowhead, Sagittaria latifolia. The location is just to its liking, and I foresee that in a year or two it will over-run the whole pool, unless severely thinned out. The leaves are "arrow-shaped" (Sagittate), and the largest were about a foot long, terminating a yard-long petiole. The flowering season was over, as was the case with all the other water-plants; but in July and August the pond is covered with the masses of showy white flowers. This plant is cosmopolitan, and is extensively cultivated in China, says Sturdevant, for the sake of its edible roots. These are bulbs, which dig themselves into the solid earth below the mud. Thunberg, in 1784, observed that the Japanese collected the bulbs for food.

Another native plant closely related to the Arrow-head, grows at Southport; this is the Water Plantain, Alisma Plantago-aquatica L. There was not much to go upon in identifying the plant as the herbaceous stems were dead and dry. The plant evidently produced its flowers in a large, loose, compound panicle, but now each flower stalk was terminated in a little whorl of dried seeds, arranged rather in the style of the mallows. The "Treasury of Botany" states that the solid part of the root is farinaceous, and when dried to rid it of its acid properties, is eaten by the Calmucks. A tall grass-like plant with a fuzzy head of seeds has lately sprung up on the margin of the pool. This is the Black-banded Bulrush, Scirpus atro-cinctus Fernald. The flowering stem is encircled with a black band below

each joint; hence the name. As it seeds abundantly it will probably become a nuisance to the other plants! This must be distinguished from the cylindrical Cat-tail, locally, but erroneously, called "Bulrush."

The Pontederia cordata, Pickerel Weed, was introduced and planted in the pool by Prof. Reddin. I've not heard of its growing elsewhere in the Province. It throws up numerous spikes of light blue flowers, and furnishes a foil to the white hues of other aquatics. There was a fine stand of Wild Rice at one or two places. This is the Zizania aquatica of Linnaeus, says Dr. Britton in his "Manual." Asa Gray is not in agreement with this view and the reader is therefore referred to his text-book. Wild Rice is an important food for wild ducks and other water-birds, and I have known of previous attempts to grow it on the Island. The attempts were not successful, for the seed seems to lose vitality very quickly if dried out. Much of the stand had been cut down by muskrats. There were water-lilies in the pool, but as the flowering stage was past and it was not possible to

(Continued on page 15, Col 3)

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LIME

In accordance with the P. E. I. Department of Agriculture policy of assisting Island farmers to obtain Ground Limestone at low price, we are now prepared to ship lime in carlots of thirty (30) tons or more to all Island points at two dollars and eighty cents (\$2.80) per ton delivered in bulk and three dollars and fifty-five cents (\$3.55) per ton delivered in bags. These prices are in effect until Dec. 31st, 1938.

Brookville Manufacturing Co., Ltd. Brookville, St. John County, N. B. H. G. S. ADAMS, MANAGER.

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