

TIMELY NOTES ON FUR FARMING

In the November issue of the Black Fox Magazine and Modern Mink Breeder is the following from notes entitled "Twenty-five Years Ago," which appeared in that magazine. Silver fox prices took a tumble of 50 to 60 percent in this year of the depression. . . . McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Ltd., Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, received the highest price for a silver fox pelt in the January London market. It was \$435. . . . That note brings back memories of the long ago when the late W. Chester S. McLure and the writer were buying silver fox here for the Hudson's Bay Company. Part of our duties were to go over to London and give our ideas on prices and talk over arrangements for the following year. The previous year, 1929, had been the great depression year and the full effects of it had not hit Great Britain and while prices were down some 50 percent on the average, it was nothing like the drop which was experienced in New York. The following year the market strengthened a little and then gradually improved. The emphasis then was on the three-quarter silvers and pale silvers were not so much wanted in Europe. Eventually the public fancy changed and the dark silvers were

Methods of selling chinchilla pelts were discussed at a meeting of the San Francisco Chinchilla Club last Friday. William Berlin, official grader for the Association spoke on the requirements on standards and gave answers to questions throughout the Association.

MINK IS TOPS
In Nashville, Tenn., mink is still tops but the storekeepers have to use more advertising to play up their fur garments. At one specialty store best selling items were dark mink scarfs and also pastel clutch capes. The latter were selling at \$68. Another department store buyer said all his business is in scarves and scarfs of ranch and wild mink and in baum and stone marten at widely varying prices. Another leading furrier lists as best sellers scarves, clutch capes a n d Spencers in pastel, silver, ranch and sapphire mink. The above is just one of many items we notice in fur journals and all show the popularity of mink is continuing.

Sam Gottesfeld, brilliant writer on fur topics, has an article in the latest Women's Wear Daily entitled, "Increase in Credit Troubles Alerts Trade to Weakness." The rose-colored glasses the fur industry put on when business started up late last year have been smudged by a black cloud of business troubles now hovering over the market. The outbreak of financial difficulties this month has reawakened industry leaders to the fact that the basic weaknesses of the trade's credit practices and operational methods have yet to be corrected. For while 1954 generally saw a moderate upturn in business in the wholesale and manufacturing market sufficient to cut gross insolvency losses more than 50 percent below 1953, it is now apparent that the credit situation is taking a turn for the worse in 1955.

LIABILITIES
Unofficially, the first three and a half weeks of November have seen gross insolvency liabilities in the industry approach \$1.3 million (not including salvage) as compared with only \$310,700 for the full month of November, 1954, and \$379,474 for December, 1954. Thus, it appears likely that gross insolvency for 1955 will exceed 1954 figures. However, many men are quick to point out that the volume of credit money circulating in the trade during 1955 has been substantially greater than in 1954. Thus the losses suffered so far this year are not regarded as so large proportionately as to constitute cause for undue alarm. The fur industry has experienced much more serious financial difficulties and has survived, if it is said in the article goes on to state, than the volume of published enough to give our fur farmers an idea that possibly the lush days of extended credits are going to be curtailed.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY
The 25th anniversary of the Prince Edward Island Fur Breeders' Association was held this week in the fox and mink show pavilion at the Provincial Exhibition grounds and was pronounced by leading exhibitors as one of the best held in years. The quality of the foxes was stated by the judge, Parvin Cass, of Summerside, as excellent, comparing favorably with the best of the years ago. Mink have improved greater interest in that exhibit. The Sapphires were particularly beautiful this year. All these points were brought out at a banquet held at the Rendezvous Restaurant on Wednesday night.

It was presided over by the president of the Association, B. B. Jones of Banbury. Short speeches were made by E. H. Burleigh, Executive Director; Stewart Wright, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Dr. C. K. Gunn, Experimental Fox and Mink Station, Summerside; W. O. Goddard, Petticoeddie; C. C. Baker, former Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Lt.-Col. D. A. MacKinnon, and Walter R. Shaw. The latter was secretary of the organization for 24 years and he gave a vivid

description of the first show held in 1929. That year there were over 700 exhibits and was so successful that subsequent shows benefited from it. Upwards of 10,000 foxes were shown during the period of his secretaryship. The biggest year in point of exhibits was 1930 when 750 foxes were scrutinized by the judges for placings.

LUSH DAYS
Mr. E. H. Burleigh who was connected with the industry longer than anyone present, said that in 1911 the Pioneer Silver Fox Co. of which he was director and stockholder, decided to increase the number of breeding foxes for the following year and two men were authorized to buy three females. The price they paid was \$11,000 each which was certainly astonishing figure to those present who had not known about the lush days of fox farming during the Parvin Cass, (nee Catherine MacKinnon), a daughter of 7 lbs., 8 oz. Cooper of the Canadian Fur Sales Co. (Quebec) Ltd., gave brief addresses praising the high quality of the exhibits. The show with placings has been given excellent publicity which is appreciated very much by the exhibitors.

BIRTHS
BOYLAN—At the Charlottetown Hospital Nov. 25, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boylan, Souris, a daughter, 7 lbs., 5 oz.
ACORN—At the P. E. I. Hospital on Sunday, Nov. 27, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. Percy G. Acorn, a daughter, Barbara Anne.
HILL—On November 26, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. Ira Hill, Mayfield (nee Catherine MacKinnon), a daughter, 7 lbs., 8 oz.
MACDONALD—At the Prince County Hospital on Sunday, Nov. 20th, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Macdonald, Craupaud, a daughter, Elizabeth Grace.
SMITH—At the P. E. Island Hospital on November 29th to Mr. and Mrs. J. Lester Smith, Cumberland, P. E. I., a son, James Sidney. Weight 7 lb. 15 oz.

MURNAGHAN—At the Charlottetown Hospital Nov. 29, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Murnaghan, a daughter, Martha Michele.
MACDONWELL—At St. Mary's Hospital, Montreal, on November 25, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Macdonnell (nee Pearl Stewart), a son, Grant James, weight 8 lbs., 2 oz.

MACDOWELL—At the P. E. I. Hospital on November 29, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. A. M. MacDowell, (nee Evelyn MacVane) a daughter, Evelyn Ann.

CHAISSON—At Calgary, Alberta, Nov. 30, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Chaisson (nee Phyllis Burhoe) a son.

ROUSTON—At P. E. I. Hospital Nov. 30, to Mr. and Mrs. Byron Houston, Mayfield a daughter.

CLAY—At the King's County Hospital, Montague, on November 30, to Mr. and Mrs. Brian Clay, Dundas, a son, Derek Brian. Weight 7 lb. 10 oz.

MACDUGALL—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Glen MacDougall, 1495 Glencairn Avenue, Peterborough, Ontario on November 19th, 1955, a son, Donald Bruce.

LANDRY—At Miramichi Hospital, Newcastle, new Brunswick, on November 29th to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Landry (nee Geraldine Bryenton, a son, Stephen Joseph, 7 lbs. 7 oz.

DECOSTE—At Halifax Infirmary, Halifax, N. S., on Nov. 27th, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. J. X. Decoste (nee Yvonne Jenkins Summerside), a daughter, Deborah Marie. Weight 7 lbs.

GREENAWAY—At the Prince County Hospital on Nov. 29, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Greenaway (nee Claudia Morris), a son, Weight 9 lbs. 5 oz.

PAQUETTE—At the Souris Hospital on Nov. 20, to Mr. and Mrs. George Paquette of Clear Springs a son, Melvin Gerard. Weight 7 lbs. 13 oz.

MCELLEAN—At the P. E. I. Hospital on Nov. 30, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. Loran J. McLelean, a son, Douglas Alfred.

CHAMPION—At the Charlottetown Hospital on November 25th, to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Champion, Summerside, a daughter, 7 lbs. 4 oz.

ROGERS—At Mt. Hamilton Hospital, Hamilton, Ont., on Nov. 28, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil F. Rogerson (nee Aileen MacDonald) a daughter. Weight 6 lbs. 10 oz.

MACDONALD—At Lady Northcliffe Hospital, Grand Falls, Newfoundland, on Saturday November 26th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Barron MacDonald (Lois O'Brien) a son, 8 lbs. 7 oz. Shane Michael Brian.

MARRIAGES
LANTZ-WORTHY—At Emmanuel Church, Dartmouth, on Nov. 19, 1955, by the Rev. S. A. Hart, Edith Mary Worthy to Robert Theodore Lantz.

LOGGIE-HUESTIS—At St. Michael's Church, Chatham, N.B., on Nov. 10, 1955, by Rev. W. J. Wallace, Marjorie Lillian Huestis of Wilmet Valley, P. E. I. and William David Loggie of Chatham.

DEATHS
MAYHEW—At the Prince County



Pictured above are members of the Eastern Command School's Junior NCO Course now under way at Windsor Park, Halifax. Checking their progress with Chief Instructor or Lt. D. W. Sigsworth of Charlottetown, P. E. I. are from left to right: Trooper S. W. Bernard of Hunter River and Trooper J.R. Gauthier of North Rustico, P. E. I. The three week course covers all phases of the Army's regular training program.

TAKE JUNIOR NCO'S COURSE

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

RAISINS
Raisins received their name from the Latin "racemus" — a cluster of grapes. While Persia is believed to have been the home of the grape-vine raisins first appear in the recorded history of Egypt. The Egyptians were said to be very fond of dried grapes.

In Numbers 6:3, about 1490 B.C., there is mention of dried grapes. In 1 Samuel 25:18, there is mention of "an hundred clusters of raisins and in 1 Samuel 30:12, "two clusters of raisins" were given to an Egyptian when he was brought before David in the year 1056 B.C. Later King David when descending from Mount Olivet 1023

Hospital Nov. 27th, 1955, Alfred Mayhew of Margate in his 84th year.

LANDRIGAN—At the Charlottetown Hospital on Sunday, Nov. 27, 1955, James Landrigan in his 91st year.

MACKINNON—Suddenly on Saturday, Nov. 26, 1955, Malcolm MacKinnon in his 65th year.

ARMITAGE—At Lansing, Michigan, Nov. 30, Mrs. Wendell H. Armitage, nee Olga J. Crosby formerly of Cape Traverse, P.E.I. MacEACHERN—At Halifax, Dec. 1st, 1955, Arthur MacEACHERN in his 75th year.

CAIRNS—At Canton, Mass., November 30, 1955, Lulu K. Cairns, age 75, daughter of the late Wm. and Jane Cairns, Cape Traverse.

FRASER—At the Victoria General Hospital, Halifax, on Wednesday, Nov. 30th, 1955, John A. Fraser in his 71st year.

GORDON—At Montreal on Thursday, Dec. 1, 1955, Mrs. John P. Gordon of 22 Longworth Avenue. DeCOSTE—Suddenly in the Charlottetown Hospital on Nov. 30, 1955, William Vincent (Billy) DeCoste, aged 4 years.

MITCHELL—At the P. E. I. Hospital on Sunday, Nov. 27, 1955, Isaac Mitchell in his 55th year.

MACDONALD—At Thistle and Shamrock, Nov. 29th, 1955, Mrs. Bell MacDonald in her 90th year.

PALMER—At Charlottetown on Monday Nov. 28, 1955, Caroline Amelia Palmer daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Palmer.

MACDONALD—The death occurred at the home of Mrs. James Cook, Belle River, on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 1955, of Neil MacDonald in his 79th year.

REYNOLDS—At his residence in Murray River on November 29, Chester F. Reynolds in his 63rd year.

MUNN—At 70 Upper Hillsboro Street on Monday, November 28, 1955, Mrs. John R. Munn, formerly of Marshfield, in her 86th year.

EGAN—Suddenly at the City Hospital on Nov. 29th, 1955, Martin Edward Egan, aged 53 years.

MABEY—At Borden on Nov. 30, 1955, Edison L. Mabe in his 86th year.

MACKINNON—In Halifax Nov. 25, 1955, Rev. James C. MacKinnon of Grand River, Lot 14.

FERGUSON—At Bethel on Monday, Nov. 28, 1955, H. Leigh Ferguson in his 79th year.

MACDONALD—On Nov. 26, 1955, Catherine MacDonald, aged 83

giant irrigation system which has transformed the "barren waste" into one of the most beautiful agricultural sights we have ever seen, as we travelled up this valley in the spring of 1953 when the cherries and plums, in full bloom, lined either side of the railway, right back to the foothills, for miles and miles. We learned that the valley annals, proceed northward. The development of the raisin industry in California has been phenomenal. There was no market for the Muscat grapes in the San Joaquin Valley that we have ever seen, as we travelled up this valley in the spring of 1953 when the cherries and plums, in full bloom, lined either side of the railway, right back to the foothills, for miles and miles. We learned that the valley annals, proceed northward. The development of the raisin industry in California has been phenomenal. 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