

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Canadian National Fox Breeders' Association held at the Head Office in Summerside, April 10th, the date for the annual meeting of the Association was set as 2 P.M. June 10th, 1952, and it will be held at the Association's premises in Summerside. The day previous to the above meeting George A. Calbeck, manager Fur Marketing Department, and his assistants, packed a large wooden crate with 26 fur garments of fox and mink fur consigned by Canadian Fur Advertising Committee to Canadian Government Exhibit, Palais 6, Brussels International Fair, Brussels, Belgium.

The selections were made from the finest skins available and arrangements for their display, shipping, etc. was done by D.O. Stewart, Secretary of the Fur Marketing Department. Mr. Calbeck stated that he believed it was the best collection they had ever sent out and we notice among them pearl platinum fox capes, standard platinum fox capes, standard platinum fox stole, standard silver fox capes, standard silver fox cape stole, Arctic blue cape, standard mink stole, standard mink jacket, Starlight mink cape with rose petal collar, standard mink cape stole, standard mink cape with tuxedo collar, standard mink four skin stole, 12 standard dressed mink skins, 24 mutation mink pelts dressed, 5 grade A pearl platinum fox skins, one grade A white marked silver fox skin, 4 pearl platinum raw fox pelts, 4 standard platinum raw fox pelts, 4 white marked silver raw fox pelts, 4 standard silver raw fox pelts, (all the above were graded select A, B, and C) and 4 standard grade A raw fox pelts. The total value of the shipment is \$11,160. Great interest has been taken at previous international exhibitions in Milan, Italy, and elsewhere, where consignments such as the above have been displayed and no doubt equal interest will be taken in this one.

The fur industry by and large is pleased with Finance Minister Abbott's budget which cuts the excise tax on furs from 25 to 15 per cent. The reduction payable on lower skin prices under the ruling compared with last year should spur fur garment sale both at manufacturer and retail level, it is believed.

The great kick about it is that it is levied at the dressing and dyeing stage and that places the onus of tax collection on the producer and the burden of financing the tax payment on the owners of the skins. It is believed that it would have been much better to have the tax imposed at the point of sale of the garment by the manufacturer similar to other articles subject to excise tax. One of the leading Montreal furriers figures the tax cut means a reduction of about \$20 on the wholesale price of a northern muskrat back coat, and \$30 or more off the retail price. Thus a \$400 muskrat coat may become about \$350, it is suggested.

An increase of 20 to 33 per cent in the size of ranch mink pelts at the Putnam Fur Farms, Lake Mahopac, N.Y., has been achieved by adding Terramycin, Terralac and Vitamin B 12 to horse meat and fish fed. It is reported by Charles Pfizer Co., New York chemical concern. Use of these dietary supplements, the firm claims, has virtually eliminated mortality among such mink and improved color and lustre. More than 5,000 mink on the Putnam Fur Farms were involved.

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-NEWSY NOTES-

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A. 1918 The annual meeting of the National Council was held in Montreal in January, 1918. Great interest and enthusiasm prevailed at this large gathering of the Association throughout Canada. The people at home demonstrated the same unity of spirit that was so well exemplified by our fighting men in the trenches of France. The whole nation had mobilized for the supreme effort to overthrow the enemy from his great fortified lines that Germany thought were impregnable, in France.

The confidence of our people also reached its highest point, and this was reflected by the Y.M.C.A. budget that included over a million dollars for overseas work; over half a million for war work in Canada and on the transports; a quarter million for the Canadian Khaki University; \$200,000,000 for work in the allied armies and for prisoners of war; \$90,000,000 for the regular work of the National Council; and \$75,000,000 for the Y.M.C.A. regular and war service budget, which, when added made a total of \$2,250,000,000. Nearly half a million dollars was added to this before the campaign started making the total \$2,715,000,000. The result of that campaign is still almost unbelievable, as \$3,342,610,000 were received; P.E. Island, which had contributed \$7,860,000 to the Y.M.C.A. military work the year before, raised \$18,000,000 from our people, whose incomes would be scarcely one-half of what they are today.

EXPANDED SERVICES The enlistment of 180,000 men for military service in 1918 greatly increased the opportunity for Y.M.C.A. work among the troops in Canada. The entertainment department was greatly improved; artists of high standing in the musical world were secured for the large scale concert programs; nine standard moving picture machines and twelve portable ones were acquired for the huts and branches of the work in the military camps. Religious work was further emphasized, as shown by 1750 decision cards being signed in the camps of Ontario and Quebec that year. Educational work was developed by increasing the number of libraries, and by using the travelling libraries supplied by several provincial departments of education.

Work was established in the Royal Air Force camps, in cooperation with the Imperial Munitions Board, who assisted in building the huts. Their Officer in Command of the Borden Camp said: "Your endeavors have helped to make the men's spare time enjoyable and beneficial in every way. My only regret is that you did not come into the camp sooner, as the success of the Y.M.C.A. has been far beyond my highest expectations." Two Y.M.C.A. workers went with men of the Imperial Air Service, who were sent to secure Sitka spruce from the Queen Charlotte Islands for airplane propellers. They provided regular Y.M.C.A. supplies and entertainment, and also were able to render outstanding service during the terrible "flu" epidemic that attacked the camps. Their huts were turned into hospitals and the secretaries worked heroically as assistants to the camp doctors. A logging contractor said: "I am so satisfied with the kind of service the Y.M.C.A. has rendered that I have made my mind never to run another camp without something of the kind in it." An official of the Imperial Munitions Board said to a Secretary: "I was at first sceptical as to your ability to adapt your program to men in logging camps, but I am now fully convinced that you put over a very valuable piece of work."

The greatest development, however, of the year in Canada was the building of the chain of Red Triangle Clubs. This had started in Toronto in April, 1917. The stream of returning men, many of them casualties, grew, and special trains carried them home from the ports. The Y.M.C.A. workers met the men at the ports, and representatives went with them on the special trains; Red Triangle Clubs were erected from coast to coast in all the larger cities, for the returned men to use as hostels. A staff of volunteer ladies, many of them wives and mothers of soldiers, served the men in the Red Triangle Clubs, and visited others in the hospitals. Many of the local Y.M.C.A.'s placed portions of their buildings at the disposal of the returned men.

The work of the secretaries on the transports so impressed the Captain of the Olympic that he asked for a Y.M.C.A. officer to be permanently attached to his staff. Captain Kneale, at the port of Halifax was provided with a motor boat, and was warmly welcomed by the British and American naval and transport ships as they entered port, where he always had a program ready for the officers and crews upon their arrival. The staff in Canada increased to 110 secretaries, who were engaged in 100 different branches of the work; and in addition, there were a large number of paid helpers and volunteers, so that over \$700,000,000 were spent in the service.

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Farmers Can Test Their Seed

To harvest good field crops good seed must be sown. Often seed is obtained from the local dealer, but many farmers use their own home-grown seed. The quality of seed is important, and a seed test will show any undesirable conditions which may result in a crop failure, or introduce and spread troublesome weeds.

There are two main seed tests; for purity and germination. In a purity test the seed is examined to determine the kinds and number of weed and other cultivated seeds. The germination test shows the proportion of crop seeds that may be expected to produce normal plants.

In making a purity test the seed should be thoroughly mixed so that it is representative of the whole quantity and a pound should be used for the actual analysis. This should be spread on a clean surface in a good light, and be carefully picked over and all foreign seeds removed. These should be named and the number of each kind recorded. If identification of some is impossible they may be sent to the nearest Seed Laboratory of the Plant Division, Canada Department of Agriculture.

Hardy Annuals

There is a place for annual flowers in almost every garden. They are particularly useful in the garden of a new house before the permanent planting is done. They have a place in established gardens when the daffodils and tulips and the earlier flowering perennials have bloomed and left bare places. They are among the best flowers for house decoration and are truly "out and come again" flowers, as new blossoms come if the old ones are cut before seed pods form.

Seeds of the more hardy annuals can usually be sown in early May in locations where they are to bloom and require little beyond thinning and weeding. They do well in any good garden soil but a well prepared soil bed is necessary. Perhaps the greatest cause of failure is planting the seeds too deep. Fairly generous, shallow seeding and careful tamping of the soil will do much to assure success.

Some annuals take 90 to 100 days or more from the time of seeding to the time of blooming. Such seeds are not suited for outdoor sowing, and are sown early in the spring in hotbeds or greenhouses. The average gardener is advised to buy plants of this group of annuals rather than to grow them at home from seed. While this can be done, under average home conditions and with no greenhouse, spindly plants often result which are subject to a fungus disease known as "damping-off".

Seed catalogues and most packages indicate the number of days required until the plant blooms.

Care Required in Shrub Choice

It is better to use fairly small plants in planting a hedge, says B. W. Oliver, Assistant, Ornamental Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Two-year-old plants from seed are excellent for most deciduous hedges and four years for conifers.

Tractors And Fire

Fire insurance figures continue to show that tractors still remain something of a "bad-man" on many farms. And there is no reason why this should be, experts point out, if a few simple precautions are observed. Here are a few pointers to take the fire risk out of tractors: (1) Keep the tractor well serviced. The chief fire hazards are mufflers, gasoline lines and the ignition system.

(2) Under no circumstances do any repair work to a tractor in a building where fire could do extensive damage. Distance is the greatest protection and the cheapest. A minimum distance is 80 feet from any main building.

Flaming gasoline spreads rapidly and much material around a farm is often dry and inflammable. (3) Combustible material on the tractor or nearby can be a serious fire risk. Chaff can accumulate on the engine, pile up on the muffler or get sufficiently in contact with heated parts to cause a flash fire. In starting the engine it may back-fire and ignite inflammable material nearby. (4) Drive the tractor around the farm with the same care and attention given to driving a car on a crowded highway.

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numerous new shoots close to the ground. In the case of conifers, cut off only about half of last year's growth. Hedges must be clipped each year to keep them in good shape. Never let a hedge reach the desired height before starting to trim it. This will result in a bushy top on tall leafless stems. The correct time to trim will vary with the locality and the season. In general, hedges should be trimmed when the active period of new growth is about at an end. In most parts of Canada this will be at the end of June or early July for deciduous plants and about September first for conifers. Hedges should be clipped during cool, dull spells of weather to avoid tip burning.

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