

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

I. J. Fox, who conducts stores in New York and Boston and is probably the largest retail furrier in the world, has released 65 employees due to the slump in fur sales.

Stanton writing in Women's West Daily says: "Despite diminished local interest in buying American raw skins, purchases made by or for Europeans have helped maintain some activity during the recent weeks on items such as muskrat, mink, raccoon and other furs."

Europeans on the other hand, are said to find today's price levels fairly attractive and are buying more than they did at this time a year ago, when the domestic market was competing vigorously for merchandise with less competition from the Americans.

At the Winnipeg sale held last week there was very little difference between the prices for wild mink and those of the previous month at the Dominion fur auction sales.

Arthur C. Prentice, general manager of Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. Ltd., Montreal, states that the present decline of fur prices is the result of the unexpected slump of the last half of 1951 and the attitude of uncertainty which now surrounds the market.

He comments on the heavy government spending and the efforts to put the brakes on consumer purchasing power through credit restrictions and severe tax in-

creases. The result was that the trade suddenly became aware that they had over extended themselves and consequently were now obliged to sustain losses in order to reduce inventories.

The chinchilla breeders are going merrily along even though their pelts are not featured in any of the markets and no prices have been established for them.

My recollection of chinchilla is seeing it at C. M. Lamson & Company's in 1926. The fur was very similar to pearl platinum mink but longer. It had a greyish blue color.

The Argentine Industrial Center of Furriers have made sharp comment on the decline of activity in the fur industry there.

A nutria coat which in 1945 retailed for 2000 pesos, now costs 15 to 20 thousands pesos. Appreciating the difficulties of the furriers the government began on January 21st by abolishing the 20 per cent luxury tax which had been imposed last year on the retail sales values of furs.

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.S.C.

Rabbits And Hares One of our school teachers wrote recently, stating that his pupils wished to know if what are called wild rabbits on the island are rabbit or are they hares?

This hare ranges from Virginia to Hudson's Bay. It never makes or enters burrows, but lives both day and night with no other shelter than the thickets. It feeds largely at night, but frequently seen near the edge of the woods in the evening.

After answering the letter briefly, it was thought that others, as well as the pupils, would be interested in further items on rabbits and hares.

Wild rabbits differ from hares in being much smaller in size; they have shorter ears and feet. They do not have the black patch at the tip of the ears common to some hares, and are grayer in colour.

In America the terms hare and rabbit are used indiscriminately for the species of the various rodents under the family Leporidae.

There are five groups of hares in Canada: The Arctic hare, Lepus arcticus, is a pure white species. Its range is throughout the barren grounds, Arctic islands, Northwest Territory, Ungava, Labrador and Newfoundland.

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Home Painting More Popular

About 75 per cent of all indoor painting in Canada is now being done by the householders themselves, says G. R. Ingleson of the paint and varnish division of Canadian Industries Limited.

Comparing painting tastes across the country, he thought that people in Quebec, while excellent handymen, were not quite so color-conscious as those in Ontario.

Improper mixing of paints and failure to clean walls thoroughly before painting, were the two most common mistakes made by the average householder when he undertakes to paint his own home, he said.

The best way to mix paint is by placing the can on a proper paint shaker in the store where it can be mixed perfectly in three minutes.

He recommended the use of a hard high gloss enamel in kitchens and bathrooms to prevent steam from soaking into the paint and streaking it.

Other Canadians think we are producing as much as we can and that most of the arable land in the country is now in use.

It could be done across the board, the same should be possible in Canada where facilities to produce fertilizers and other essential agricultural chemicals have kept pace with increased demand in recent years.

Revisions in the Criminal Code to be brought before Parliament for approval at the forthcoming session may include changes in existing procedures for payment of fines, it was reported today.

One change which has been considered by a special committee drafting revisions to the Code has been the suggestion that fines be made payable on the installment plan.

However, whether this feature will be incorporated in the new legislation was not known.

In Toronto yesterday, Mr. Justice E. R. Chevrier of the Ontario Supreme Court said sections of the Code giving judges the option of imposing a fine or a jail sentence are discriminatory because they allow a rich man to pay a heavy fine and get away with a light jail sentence or with none at all.

GAUDALAJARA, Mexico, Feb. 22 (AP)—Six persons died Wednesday and nine were injured when fire broke out near the screen of the Alameda movie theatre.

GENEVA, Feb. 19—(Reuters)—Swiss police Monday investigated an application for political asylum sought by Karel Stern, Czechoslovak commercial attaché in Bern.

NORWICH, England—(CP)—When a foundry worker here lifted a heavy weight he gritted his teeth so hard his top denture broke.

Copy of a Minute of His Honour the Administrator of the Government-in-Council dated February 21, 1952.

Insect Resistance To Poisons Is Half Century Old

While many Canadians are under the impression that resistance by flies to DDT is a new trait developed by insects in the last few years, the fact is that resistance to pesticides dates back more than half a century.

Strains resistant to certain insecticides have been observed in many insect species in different parts of the world since 1900, writes J. A. Oakley, entomologist of C-I-L's agricultural chemicals department in the February issue of C-I-L Oval.

The first instance of house fly resistance to DDT occurred in Italy in 1946, two years after DDT was first introduced.

Several explanations for this resistance are given by various research workers. One DDT resistant fly strain was observed to have thicker cuticle on the foot pad which may have reduced the absorption of DDT.

Where DDT-resistant flies are present, other insecticides may be used. These include methoxychlor, lindane, chlordane and other chlorinated hydro-carbons.

BANGKOK, Thailand, Feb. 20—(AP)—A high Foreign Office official said today Chinese Nationalist Gen. Li Mi is in Taipei, presumably to talk about evacuating his 10,000 troops from the sensitive Burma-China border.

Dr. Edwin R. Gilliland, president of Ionics, Inc., one of the affiliates of the corporation, said the process, based on the use of electrical energy in conjunction with new synthetic membranes, is expected to provide relief in sections of the United States now short of fresh water supplies.

It also indicates hopes of making desert lands available for cultivation.

Dr. Gilliland said the power cost alone of producing fresh water from sea water would amount to six cents a thousand gallons—and the total cost including membranes and equipment would be in the range of 10 to 20 cents a thousand gallons.

The process of desalting the sea water was not divulged.

It was estimated that the use of this new process would yield about two-third purified water from salt sea water.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22—(AP)—Two new wonder pills have saved people hopelessly sick with tuberculosis, their lungs riddled with holes, too weak to get out of bed.

Within a few weeks, many were up and about, had gained up to 20 pounds, felt far better.

It is too early to say whether the two new drugs have actually cured TB but they look "better than anything so far," in treating it, Dr. Marcus D. Kogel, commissioner of New York city hospitals, announced.

He said they had been tried on 150 "desperately sick" patients. Within two weeks, they had done wonders for persons who had not been expected to recover.

Canadians At Perth Sales

Canada was the biggest buyer of bulls at the 1952 Pedigree Short-horn Sales which ended at Perth, Scotland, February 14. Record Canadian purchases of nearly \$150,000 worth of animals consisted of 28 bulls at \$137,092 and 19 heifers at \$10,371.

Top Canadian price was 10,000 guineas (\$29,400) which Mr. A. Cross of Calgary paid for "Calrossie Highland Piper," owned by Messrs. J. and D. P. MacGillivray, of Calrossie, Ross-shire, and a second prize winner at the show.

Other Canadian purchases included 7,900 gns. (\$23,266) paid for Calrossie Armada, a third prize winner, by Mr. Grant Campbell of Moffat, Ont.; 6,100 gns. (\$17,934) paid for the supreme champion of the show, "Calrossie Prefect," by Mr. Stewart Bennett, of Scotsdale, Ont.; 5,500 gns. \$16,170 for "Calrossie Primae" and 3,500 gns. (\$10,584) for "Calrossie Welfare"—both first prize winners—paid by Mr. Claude Galinger of Edmonton; 4,200 gns. (\$12,348)—top price on closing day—paid by Mr. G. H. Jones for the Richardson Stock Farms, Winnipeg, for "Calrossie White Emblem," Massey-Harris of Toronto bought the reserve junior champion, "Duncrahill Brigadoon" for \$8,820.

Canadian Judge Mr. R. Ford of Westport, Ontario—probably the youngest man ever to take on the difficult job of judging the supreme champion at the Perth Short-horn Sales—drew high praise for his work.

"The ringside," says the Glasgow Herald, "has seldom seen such a responsible task tackled with such confidence," and it was a tribute to Mr. Gardhouse's work that there seemed little ringside disagreement with this adjudication. In the January bull class, for instance, he had a parade of 39 bulls, and in 40 minutes he had placed the class. He was presented with a shepherd's crook in token of his excellent services and "the most expeditious judging" yet seen at Perth.

TRONDHEIM, Norway, Feb. 19 (Reuters)—Per Erenskjold, nuclear physicist employed at the Technical College here, has been missing for 10 days, police announced yesterday. Police said groups of students and other researchers had been looking for the 30-year-old scientist since Feb. 8.

LENGTHY LABOR The famous "Greek Testament" published by John Mill, English theologian, in 1707 was the result of 30 years' labor.

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