

RCN'S FIRST ST. CROIX

The first ship in the RCN to bear the name, HMCS St. Croix was originally the USS McCook, one of the famous 50 over-age destroyers acquired by Britain from the United States in 1940. Seven subsequently were turned over to the RCN. Credited with the sinking of two enemy submarines, the St. Croix herself was torpedoed and sunk on September 20, 1943 while escorting a convoy in mid-Atlantic. The RCN's new St. Croix will be commissioned October 4th. (National Defence Photo)

TIMELY NOTES ON FUR FARMING

The annual meeting of the Canada Mink Breeders Association was held at Edmonton, Alberta on September 17. R.C. Col'ings, New Westminster, B.C. in his presidential address, said that "despite the increasing number of mink being produced annually, never in the history of the business has the market been as bare of mink pelts as this September". Members of Canada Mink Breeders were told that the large number of pelts sold in very early and late sales is a matter of some significance in considering mink marketing results of the past year.

He also said it was surprising to note the increase in Canadian pelts sent to the New York market this past season. In spite of comparable, or better prices in Canadian sales and the loss of money values due to the dollar exchange rate.

INCREASED RECENTLY
Discussing receipts from deductions on mink sales, the Canada Mink Breeders president reported that receipts from mutation mink on Canadian sales last year increased better than 15 percent, but dark mink receipts were off almost 30 percent. Total Canadian receipts increased 3.6 percent.

E.M.B.A. receipts credited to C.M.B. for Canadian pelts sold in the United States increased 19 1/2 percent last season, and over all returns for C.M.B. represent a total increase of 7.6 percent for the year. C.M.B. spent 4.81 percent of its revenue in research expenditures last year, and more than 70 percent went for advertising and promotion. The president stated that "a very complete submission" was made to the Canadian government on proposed United States legislation setting quotas or other restrictions against entry of ranch-raised mink pelts into the United States. He also reported that Canada Mink Breeders membership has risen another 10 percent, to make a total of 1,375 signed members, plus another 500 non-members who supported the association last year.

Luncheon was sponsored by the Edmonton Fur Auction Company and later, a dinner by the Hudson's Bay Company, and Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Quebec) Ltd. A total of five auction

companies were represented at the gathering.

GOOD MINK DEMAND
Optimism is general in the United States for a continuance of good demand for mink and its mutations. Robert E. Bladden, owner and operator of Milo's Furs, one of the biggest concerns in mink in Michigan, reported that his year's business exceeded by 10 percent its early season's estimates.

Mutation mink continues to be the first choice of his customers, he said. Stoles have been very popular, and there is an increasing traffic in capes, and he has made many sales of coats.

Similar reports are appearing from various other parts of the United States; in Buffalo, New York, one of the largest stores reported that his business is 33 percent ahead of last year, with mink the "hottest" item.

Buyers reporting from the West Coast say that sales are good there as a result of strong promotions. To sum up, it can be confidently stated that mink is selling well in all parts of the United States, which means that if it continues that way, our ranchers will be in line for another good season in 1959.

U.S. PRODUCTION
Ed Gold, writing in "Women's Wear Daily" states that mink production in the United States last year advanced only a little over 2 percent, as compared to the 1956 season; this is according to the statistical report issued by the National Board of Fur Farm Organizations.

Last year's crop, sold during the 1957-58 season at auction, totalled 4,514,000 skins, compared to 4,170,000 mink raised in 1956. The survey states that the average pelt price for 1957 was found to be identical with the average for the preceding year—\$19.54, despite impressive fluctuations in the individual colors.

Production figures were marked by the following high points: 1. Darks, as had been expected showed the biggest production drop. The dark crop fell far behind pastels and sapphires as the third most important color. Dropping from 771,651 pelts in 1956 to 563,799 last year.

The largest percentage increase was in the gun metal types. Production rose from 230,129 in 1956 to 352,543 in 1957, or roughly a 53 percent increase. Two of the most important shades, Sapphire and Silver Blue, showed small variations from the preceding year. Sapphires were up to 809,350 as compared to 740,300, while Silver Blues slid back slightly from 354,249 in 1956 to 348,481 during the past season.

Pastels were easily the most important color, holding almost even in production on 1956 figures. Palomino-Buffs increased slightly; Topaz was cut back fairly sharply; and Whites showed a moderate production increase.

Reflecting the production cut-backs, darks registered the strongest price advance, averaging \$20.41 compared to \$14.94 the year before. This represented a gain of over 36.5 percent. Whites advanced from \$31.52 to \$35.73. Pastel price levels were in line with production; the average price was \$19.96—a two percent increase over 1956 levels. Silver Blues dipped from \$17.53 to \$15.32. Sapphires were off from \$25.48 to \$23.08. Topaz slipped from \$22.86 to \$19.91. Gun Metals were down from \$29.92 to \$24.87. Palomino-Buff types were off from \$22.63 to \$19.24.

There was no comparison for Pearls, which averaged \$31.39.

Assassins Fail To Kill French Cabinet Minister

PARIS (AP) - Algerian Nationalist assassins sprayed machine-gun bullets at French Information Minister Jacques Soustelle Monday in the heart of Paris but they missed him in two tries. Splattering glass from his automobile windows scratched his face and a bullet passed through his coat. But Soustelle a former governor-general of Algeria, ducked down in the car and when the firing died down sprinted for a building. Again the machine-guns chattered. Soustelle dropped to the pavement and was unscratched. Bullets whizzing around him killed a French subway employee. Two Algerians were wounded and three French bystanders dropped by gunfire. Initial reports said one of the Algerians was slain, but police denied it. Soustelle was on his way to

work when he was attacked at a red light. When reporters got to him less than two hours later he had discarded his bullet-torn jacket and was freshly dressed, sporting two pieces of adhesive on his forehead as the only visible marks of the attempt on his life.



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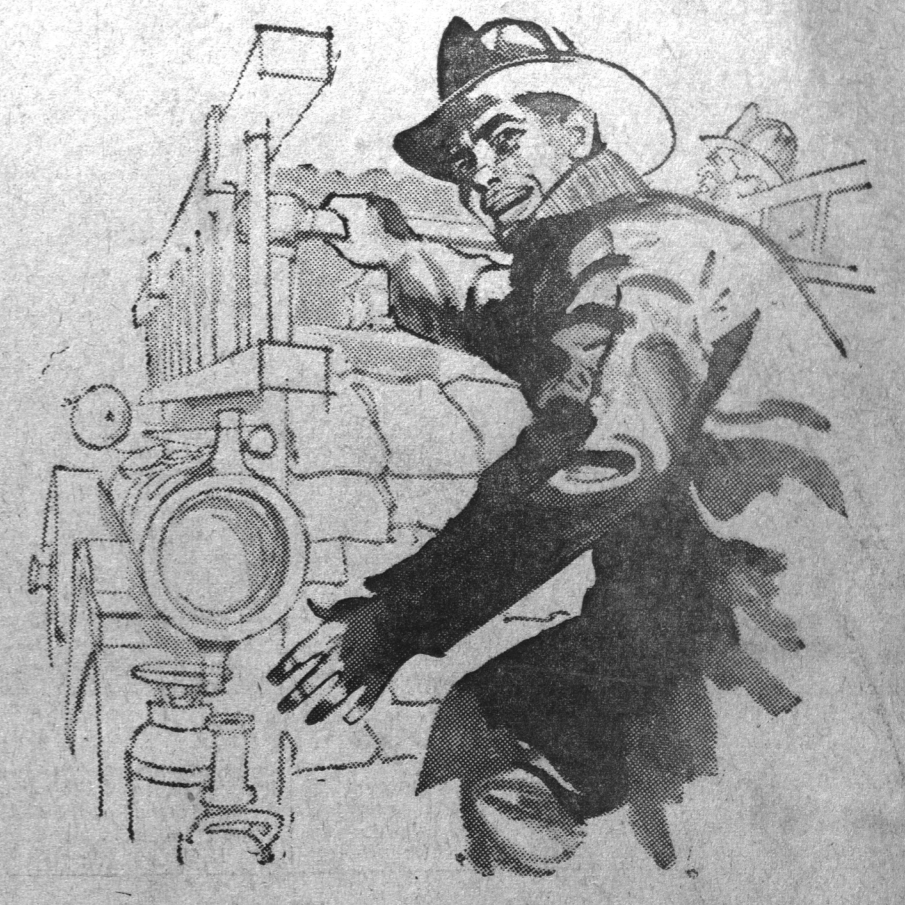
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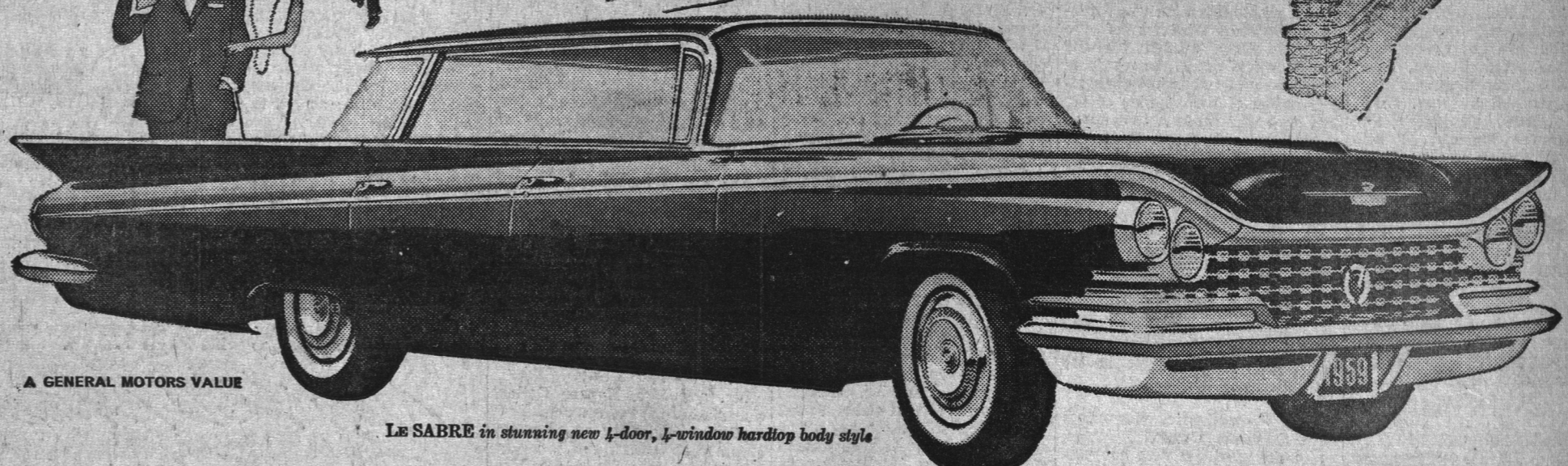
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