

## Retailers Have Helped Raise Business Standards

The value of the Retail Merchants Association as a collection medium was stressed by the speaker, who described in detail the service available to each member by Toronto businessmen F. Arnold Rands, at a meeting at city Hall Thursday evening.

"The Principles for which the founders of the Retail Merchants Assn. of Canada stood, are still the major policy today after 60 years of work for retailers, and they helped raise Canadian business standards in no mean degree," Mr. Rands declared.

"We are a group of retailers working together in an organization with objects along purely service lines - to improve the status of the independent retailer, and if we fail in getting what is justly ours, it is because we fail to take advantage of what our own organization has to offer."

**FUTURE IN BALANCE**

"The future of the more than 140,000 independent merchants in Canada now hangs in balance because finances are not readily available to them at reasonable interest rates, and at terms which make it possible for these retailers to meet."

"The business man knows very well that business must be buoyant and it must have the sinews of war, if farmers, fisherman



### MEETS AUSSIE MINISTER

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — Sidney Smith, left, new Canadian minister for external affairs in cabinet of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, chats with Australian Foreign Minister Richard G. Casey here. They attended opening of 12th General Assembly. AP Wirephoto

Charlottetown, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lewis, Saturday evening Sept. 7th.

Mrs. Howard Watts and infant son Paul have returned to their home in York.

Miss Muriel Brown of Victoria, B.C. is visiting in York the guest of her two brothers, Elmer and Leith Brown and other friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Richard Murray River, were the guests of their daughter, Mrs. Willard Murray, York.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rodd, Milton were recent visitors to York at the home of Mrs. George Watts.

Mrs. Willard Currie and two children, Toronto, arrived home by plane on Wednesday, to visit at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Murray, York.

Mrs. George Watts had her guest on Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Carr, Stanhope.

Mrs. Frank Vessey was hostess to York Women's Institutes on Tuesday evening September 3rd with a good attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Murray and two children Karen and Boyd of York were the guests of Mrs. Murray's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Richard, Murray River, on Sunday Sept. 8th.

Rev. Mr. Littlejohns held service in York United Church on Sunday evening. He was a former Minister thirty-eight years ago. He was much enjoyed by all, also Mrs. Littlejohns was a welcome visitor.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Craswell, Winslow was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crockett, York on Monday Sept. 2nd.

Mr. Howard Watts, Moncton, was the weekend visitor, at his home in York.

Mr. George Cudmore, Charlottetown, has purchased the property of Mrs. Alex Beaton, York recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Andrew and daughter Linda have returned to their home in York after spending a holiday in Toronto.

**KENSINGTON W.I.**

The members of Kensington United Church W. A. met on Monday evening at the home of Mrs. W. M. Cousins, Kensington.

Mrs. S. G. Spicer, Mrs. Hodge Montgomery and Mrs. Linwood Tombs were in charge of the worship period. The treasurer reported the sum of \$318.51 on hand. On motion it was decided to have thanks expressed from the pulpit to the stewards and Mr. Bruce MacLeod for their work in installing water and sink in the church kitchen. It was also decided to vote \$200.00 towards a new heating system for this year and \$100.00 for each of the next two years.

## Strong Indication Avro Will Buy Dosco Empire

TORONTO (CP) — There was strong indication Tuesday that A. V. Roe Canada Limited is well on its way to obtaining support from the majority of shareholders of the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation to buy controlling interest in that huge Maritime industrial complex.

An Avro spokesman said the majority of Dosco directors approved the offer and a "substantial number" of Dosco shareholders have already turned their shares over to transfer agents indicating their willingness to accept the stock transfer offer.

He also said that Avro "expects" to have the required 52 per cent of outstanding Dosco shares committed by the Oct. 1 deadline when the formal offer to purchase expires. The deadline could, of course, be extended under terms of the original offer, he said.

The Avro spokesman would not say how many Dosco shares have yet been committed but Alan Armstrong, financial editor of The Star, said in his column Tuesday that about 40 per cent of the total now has been accounted for and "acceptances are continuing at a satisfactory rate."

**NO CONFIRMATION**

Despite newspaper reports in Montreal that United States interests would attempt to outbid Avro's offer there was no confirmation of any formal American interest either here or in Montreal.

The Avro spokesman here said he knew nothing whatever about reports Americans were interested in Dosco or that their representatives had met in Montreal Monday, as the Montreal papers reported.

Avro's formal offer made Aug. 7 to Dosco's board of directors was 1 1/2 Avro shares plus \$10.25 for each outstanding Dosco common share and a similar trading offer for Dosco convertible debentures.

After a Dosco directors meeting.

After a Dosco directors meeting in Montreal Sept. 11, Dosco president Charles B. Lang said a majority in number of the directors of the corporation holding or controlling a substantial number of shares and debentures had expressed their intention of accepting" the Avro offer. Dosco has never said formally how many directors actually support the sale but The Star said here Tuesday that "12 of the 14 Dosco directors have taken up the Roe offer and this represents a substantial block of shares."

Known to oppose the move are R. A. Jodrey and F. H. Sobey, both of Nova Scotia. They reported they sent letters to Dosco shareholders asking for authority to represent them in voting against accepting the offer.

The sprawling Dosco empire, considered Canada's biggest industrial complex, employs 30,000. It operates Canada's most important coal mines in the Maritimes, the world's largest submarine iron ore workings off the coast of Newfoundland, and in its mills and fabricating plants across the Maritimes produces a greater variety of steel products than any other Canadian firm.

**SHARE HOLSINFA'**

Dosco has authorized capitalization of 5,000,000 common shares of which 2,240,335 were issued at Dec. 31. Common shares closed Tuesday on the Toronto Stock Exchange for \$25.50. In addition its convertible debentures total \$18,000,000.

In a letter last week to Dosco shareholders, president Lang described the Avro offer as "fair and reasonable" and "substantially in excess of today's market value" for Dosco shares.

A. V. Roe Canada Limited is a holding company which though only 12 years old has become one of the country's leading designers and makers of aircraft. In recent years it has spread its interests into production and sale of buses, rolling stock for railways, forgings, castings and many other products. It was among a group including German and British interests which bought control last April of Algoma Steel Corporation. Avro is controlled by the Hawker Siddeley Group Limited of London, England, which holds 84.4 per cent of Avro issued common shares.

### GIRL GUIDES

Welcome back to your Companies and Packs, Guides, Brownies, Blue and Brown Guides. It is fine to see so many Companies and Packs getting such an early start, and we hope before long that all will be going full swing. We hope that all the Guides are aware of the Scout-Guide Rally being held at Prince of Wales College, Wednesday, September 25th at 7:30.

Of course you know that this Rally is just for Queens County Guides. There will be rallies held in Prince and Kings Counties later, you will be notified when the time and place for these has been arranged.

**CAMP**

This is indeed a very pleasant duty to perform. Mrs. Rawick, the Camp Commandant at the Camp at Rustico this summer has named the following girls as outstanding for leadership, personality, and being an all-around good Guide and Camper. Congratulations girls. Janis White, Emily Wood, Elaine Wood, Eleanor, Henry Jean Coughlin, Bonnie MacKie, Eileen MacMillan, Virginia Boudreaux, Marsha Wellner, Breta McCabe Doreen Scully.

**CAMPS BEING HELD**

A National Camp in Belgium, August 13-20. Canada is invited to send a delegation of 20. Sixteen Guides and 4 Guiders. Travel arrangements are being made to include a stay of 3 days in Paris, 2 days in Amsterdam, 6 days in London with a motor coach tour of 2 days from London to Edinburgh via Chester and the English Lakes, also a tour of the Trossachs. Applications are due at Dominion Headquarters Feb. 1st. Also there will be held an All-American Guide's Camp at Camp Wabanakai on Lake Utopia, New Brunswick, July 8-19.

Opportunities for this Western Hemisphere Camp are open to ten Canadian Guides. Ten Leaders from U.S.A. and 20 leaders from other Western Hemisphere countries. Applications are due

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## TIMELY NOTES ON FUR FARMING

The new mink selling season in Canada will open December 4 in Montreal and the following day in Winnipeg, according to dates set at the annual conference of Canada Mink Breeders held last week. This fifth annual meeting was attended by delegates from local associations all over Canada. There were three speakers from the United States. Albert Woodley of New York reported on EMBA mink advertising and the promotion of Canada Mink. The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company (Quebec) of Montreal, will open the Canadian season with a sale fixed for December 5. Dominion Fur Auction Sales, Ltd., Winnipeg, will hold a sale on December 7, and Hudson's open December 9. Western Canadian Raw Fur Auction Sales Ltd. dates are Vancouver, December 12 and 13. Other December mink dates are: Dominion, Winnipeg, December 17. Canadian, Montreal, December 20 and 21, and Hudson's Bay Company, Montreal, December 23.

Last week auction sales activity was resumed by New York Fur Auction Company, New York. They offered what was described as an "end of season" collection of EMBA merchandise. Prices were quoted as firm to current market levels, and the largest turnover was a collection of 4,172 Ceruleans. A total of 15,000 Autumn Haze was 65 percent sold. Some 2,500 Jasmine was 80 percent sold.

Older members of the fur trade will regret to learn of the death in New York of Benjamin W. Hollander, who was connected with the firm of A. Hollander and Son for almost half a century, and was chairman of the Board in New York, and president of the firm in Montreal. Hollander and Sons have been of great value to the fur trade through that long period of time, and tributes of respect to the late Mr. Hollander were received from all quarters of the United States and Canada.

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

A questionnaire has been sent by Goodkind (Mayfair) Ltd., at London, England, to debutants. It asks such questions as to whether they would like furs for evening, town, country or sports and if, say with 25 pounds (about \$70.00) to spend, they would choose a mink cravat or a moleskin stole. To date the firm that has collected the most votes is a white fox stole. So impressive has been the preference for this item, that the firm has decided to feature a small edition on it.

The old reliable firm of Anning, Chadwick and Kiver, Ltd., London, England has officially opened its new headquarters and warehouse replacing the building bombed out in 1941. The new building is six stories and occupies 24,000 square feet of space.

The opening was attended by a large number of fur men from all over the world. Visitors included about a dozen Canadian and American buyers. The above firm was one of the most reliable in the fur trade and when silver fox was king, handled large quantities of that beautiful fur.

**REPORTS**

The National Board of Fur Farm Organizations of the United States held its annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, recently. Among the reports issued were figures on the drop in pelt prices in 1956, as compared with the previous year. These figures were a composite of reports received on the sale of almost 4,000,000 mink pelts at auction and private treaty sales through American Fur Auction, Hudson's Bay Company Fur Sale, New York Auction Company, and Seattle Fur Exchange.

The total average on mink pelt prices dropped from \$26.00 in 1955 to \$14.50 in 1956. Average on darks dropped from \$19.50 in 1955 to \$14.94 in 1956. Silverblue, which commanded a per pelt average of \$22.93 in 1955 brought \$17.53 in 1956. Biggest drop was recorded in Ruby-Eye Pastels, which brought \$36.50 per pelt in 1955 and \$22.86 in 1956. Only category to show a gain in price was White Mink; in 1956 they brought \$31.62 each, while the average price for white mink pelts in 1955 was \$29.19.

A hopeful feeling was given to the meeting by the report that fewer pelts will be on the market this coming selling season. Figures released in July showed that mink production in 1957 is down at least one-half kit per breeder female as compared with 1956.

**KIT LOSSES**

Since that time, heavy losses have been recorded from "botulism", as well as the normal year-in, year-out summer losses due to heat. During recent months, 613 fur ranchers in the United States were forced out of business due to depressed market conditions during the sale of the major part of the 1956 pelt crop. Heavy losses were also suffered by a great many fur farmers in the past whelping season. These kit losses happened within the first 72 hours after birth. There was also an unusually large percentage of barren females. The report showed that the average kit production in 1956, per breeder female, was 3.56, as compared with 3.13 per breeder female in 1957. Production of dark mink has shown a continual decline in relation to the total crop for the past five-year period. During 1952, darks accounted for 39 percent of the total crop - in 1956, they accounted for only 17.47 percent of the total crop.

**IMPORTS**

The import situation showed that the National Board compilation of imports was 2,268,000 pelts brought in in 1956. In addition, there were 402,000 Japanese mink. In 1956, Canada exported 792,000 pelts to the United States, but that number was greatly increased by the four Scandinavian countries — Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland, which sent in a total of 1,943,000 pelts to the U.S.A.

**OPTIMISM**

Our comment on the above is that despite the large number of pelts exported to the United States there has been an almost unlimited demand for mink, and it must be remembered that in compiling the averages, as regards price, a large proportion of the mink raised in the United States and also imported from European countries, was of mediocre quality, suitable only for trimming purposes.

We have talked to our mink farmers in this province, and we have also heard from mink farmers in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, and none of them have been pessimistic about the future outlook for mink. There is no doubt that, similar to the silver fox farming era, there were thousands of people who went into mink farming without any idea of what a quality animal is. Unscrupulous breeders sold their inferior stock, and as a rule, that type of stock often produced better than do the higher qualities. We feel quite sure the let down in price in 1956 will be all to the good, as it will remove from the breeding ranks those who are not fitted to engage in mink enterprises.

## CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION "Canadiana '57" Grandstand Show



Grandstand performers:

*and Chevy!*

"Look at it this way," says Bob Hope. "If I were a car I'd want to give a performance like Chevrolet's. It's tremendous!" The star of "Canadiana", the Canadian National Exhibition Grandstand Spectacular in Toronto, said "Chevy's so loaded with talent and style, I wanted it — and got it — as the official car for my entrance. Now, I don't like to give another star too much credit. So it's just as well that about the only thing a Chevy doesn't do well is tell jokes. No kidding, though, this Chevrolet is the greatest. It's as sweet to look at as Dorothy Lamour, purrs along as smoothly as Bing's voice, and puts on a really sassy show on any road. I've been going steady with Chevy for years. So should you!"

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