

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

Glimpses of the Thames

While in London we were invited to visit the Shell-Mex House, which is the home of Shell-Mex and British Petroleum Ltd. It is a magnificent, 15-storey office building, fronting on the Embankment, and commands the central sweep of the Thames River from Tower Bridge to Lambeth Bridge. Its main entrance is on the Strand, and it was built on the site of the former Hotel Cecil.

When taken to the roof, we had a wonderful view of London. To the west, or up the river, there were two rows of beautiful trees along either side of the Embankment. This extended to Westminster Bridge and the Parliament Buildings, on whose tower Big Ben could be plainly seen.

The heights of Hampstead and Harrow could be seen to the north, as a background to the great expanse of the City of London. The great open spaces of St. James, Green and Hyde Parks were in the foreground, and Regent's Park could be seen in the distance.

The South Bank exhibition was the centrepiece of the Festival of Britain. It occupied 30 acres of the bombed area along the Thames River, in the very heart of London, between the Waterloo and Westminster Bridges.



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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Ontario's beaver population has shown a large increase, according to Canadian census takers, with an estimated half million as the present figure. Last year's take of pelts was 73,769, an increase of 26,483 over 1947.

On the matter of sanitation, Dr. Ott said that the presence of algae in the drinking cups isn't harmful, but since the algae can live in the mink's drinking cup, it is an indication that harmful organisms can, too.

Preventive medicine is also a strong ally. The most common example is distemper inoculation. And, here again, a well-balanced diet, preferably high in protein, will help the mink to build up its own antibodies.

"We are trying to keep alive animals which genetically should die." In highly selective breeding programs aimed at producing special coat colors, other genetic factors are being disregarded. Witness, in the case of pastel mink, the screwneck characteristic and the animal's resistance to distemper vaccines.

These raw furs is more encouraging. Raccoons are now meeting a good demand, special interest being shown in northern skins of the heavy shearing types. These are processed to simulate beaver. The 1949-50 export value of raccoon pelts amounted to \$1,426,878.

Eighty per cent of the present ranch mink production of Sweden is currently being exported to the United States, Great Britain, Switzerland and other countries. In 1950 fox and fur exports from this country exceeded \$3 million.

STOCKHOLM (CP) — Dry cold weather in the spring led to forecasts of small crops in Sweden this year, but surveys now show the yields should be about average.

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