

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

Canadian Y. M. C. A. 1917

The enlarged basis of the Y. M. C. A. Military Services was in full swing in 1917. Canada was bending every energy to win the war. This meant that the Y. M. C. A. services would meet every possible need of the Canadian soldiers with their power. The Red Triangle became the official symbol with a vital mission in the army. The Y. M. C. A. military work was established in every centre in Canada, where soldiers were being mobilized, or in training. The "Y" huts in England had been increased from nine to twenty-two. There were 32 secretaries and 150 soldier assistants, operating branches in almost every unit of the Canadian Corps in France.

At the annual meeting of the National Council, a budget of \$720,000.00 was adopted; and the objective of the 1917 "Y" campaign was set at \$750,000. and by public subscriptions and grants from provinces, a total of \$1,226,770.00 was raised. The welfare of the soldiers was constantly studied in every centre, and new means were developed to minister to their physical and social and religious needs. Indoor basketball and baseball was a feature in many Canadian cities. For the troops stationed there during the winter months. Magazines in vast numbers were collected and supplied to the soldiers. The Churches cooperated in providing socials for the men, and by inviting them to their services and to their homes. The voluntary services of large numbers of devoted women, under the direction of the Women's Military Service Committee. In the camps and cantinens, became an indispensable feature.

A new order from Ottawa established the official status of the Y. M. C. A. in a definite and satisfactory way in the Military Camps in Canada. It gave the right to accommodation and the equipment required, where these were available. The "Y" was to receive light, fuel and rations for its staff. The new order established permission to conduct restaurants, and the right of transportation for its staff and workers to and from the camps. These had all been granted at various places by a previous order, but they were made uniform for all camps.

The service for returned men was extended, and Red Triangle Clubs were formed in the larger

cities; the service for these men at ports of entry Discharge Depots was increased. Special secretaries were appointed to make round trips on transports that carried troops to Europe and returned soldiers to Canada. Work was also organized for military hospitals. The Y. M. C. A. nominated men to act as recreational and vocational officers on the staff, writing letters for them.

During 1917, the association service was extended to the Navy at Halifax and to munition workers at Trenton; there a secretary started work in March, using a large tent during the summer for recreation, entertainment and educational talks. A new building was completed before winter, and operated on the same basis as Railroad Y. M. C. A. buildings. Similar work was started at Nobel and at other munition centres, where work was under the direction of the Imperial Munitions Board.

Overseas, 1917.

Some of the new features that developed in the "Y" overseas work in England were: The building of a series of Y. M. C. A. Military officers' huts at Whitley, Bramshott, Shorncliffe and at the training school for Canadian officers at Bexhill; the extension of "Y" services to the Canadian Forestry units at camps throughout England and Scotland; Y. M. C. A. programs were provided in many convalescent hospitals throughout England, which at that time were rapidly filling up. An English "Y" hut was taken over at the Canadian hospital at Epsom, and work was undertaken at the hospitals at Etching Hill and Basingstoke.

Another new Y. M. C. A. feature, was the establishing at Liphook, the nearest railway station to the Bramshott Camp, of a rest home for soldiers' wives. It was a base where accommodation was provided for wives and friends, where they could stay overnight when visiting the camps.

Separate Y. M. C. A. branches were established at Bramshott in the segregation areas, where military units arriving from Canada were placed in temporary confinement for 28 days, to insure against the spread of contagious disease early in 1917. A Y. M. C. A. officer stayed with each unit during their isolation to direct a program of entertainment and recreation. He also helped the men plan their ten day leave following their segregation and organized parties that were going to various British cities.

A unique section of the Canadian Army overseas was the Canadian Forestry Corps. Their assigned duty was to cut lumber for military purposes in the forests of Great Britain and France, to secure this indispensable material, when submarine warfare cut them off from the world supply. Battalions were recruited largely from Canada and the force grew to 24,000 men. There were 40 Forestry companies scattered from the South of England to the Highlands of Scotland.

These men were isolated, their work was arduous and monotonous and the Y. M. C. A. made a beginning to serve them in December, 1916, and by the summer of 1917 it had established 34 branches with an experienced officer as Supervisor and N. C. O.'s usually former students or ministers in charge of the branches. The Forestry Company usually provided the huts; churches and halls, when close to the camp, were sometimes used, and occasionally marquees were erected. These were decorated and furnished and made as homelike as possible, with writing tables, etc., including a refreshment room. Concerts, lectures, cinemas, sing-songs, religious meet-

Grand Champion And Reserve



Pictured above is the grand champion steer at the Fat Stock Show which was held at the Provincial Exhibition Grounds last week. The 19 months old steer was owned by Johnny Sanderson, son of Fulton Sanderson, North River.

The champion steer was sired by Duo Heir, the famed Hereford sire. The day following the Show the animal was sold to Canada Packers for \$527.25. He weighed 965 pounds and sold for 65 cents a pound.



The Reserve grand champion steer at the Fat Stock Show which was held here last week is pictured above being held by the son of the owner, Carlyle Potts, Argyle Shore.

The Shorthorn steer was sired by Marquis Wool and his mother is Dykeman Miss Ramsden. He was sold during the beef sale to Canada Packers for \$391.50, bringing 45 cents a pound.

ings and athletic games were held, and for the three months ended June 30th, 1917, these totalled 992 meetings, with a total attendance of 107,910 men.

In France

The conditions on the quiet front at Vimy Ridge, where the Canadian Corps was located early in 1917, offered the best opportunity, up to that time, for the development of the Y. M. C. A. program. By February, fifty branches of various types and sizes, had been established in the area. The front line was relatively stable, military operations were largely trench raids, and "Y" branches were established right up in the support trenches. Many others were in the cellars of ruined houses. This period was followed by the historic battle of Vimy Ridge, that began on April 9th, when the energetic officers of the "Y" set up relief stations in the wake of the advance, and served hot drinks, and other supplies to the wounded and returning troops coming out to the reinforcements

alone.

One officer wrote: "Right up close was a Y. M. C. A. outfit, in the side of a bank, near the trench, where the wounded were being carried out. To suddenly come upon a cup of hot tea or coffee, without stint — this surely was charity if ever there was such. What I got that night was only what many thousands shared." The siege of Lens followed, and shortly afterwards it was decided to supply a free drink service throughout all Y. M. C. A. branches in the Canadian Corps. This included cold drinks in summer, as well as hot drinks when required. At the capture of Hill 70 in August, the military authorities asked the Y. M. C. A. to share the responsibility of handling the wounded with the Medical Services. The final event of the year for the Canadian Corps was their part in the capture of the Passchendaele Ridge. In this engagement, the "Y", under severe bombing by German aircraft, dispensed hot tea at the rate of 2,000 gallons per day to the First Division

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming



Dr. E. Rendle Bowness, Director of the Department of Fur Bearing Animals — Master Feeds, Toronto, has very kindly sent us the latest edition of the Master Rancher, and in it he sizes up the fox and mink situation very capably. These are extracts . . . "A year ago last December the market opened on what was considered to be a good profitable level from the rancher's point of view, but those who sold their mink in December were startled to find that in January and February prices seemed to go a little crazy and that a good 25 to 50 per cent more was paid for mink later in the winter than at the start of the season. It seems now that a great deal of this price advance was speculation and presumably an attempt to corner the market on mink. However, there were more mink around than the buyers anticipated and they found themselves unable to control all the mink with the result that prices started to tumble in the summer. Well, a number of mink dealers went bankrupt and in the succeeding confusion, the whole mink industry from the buyer to the retailer took a whale of a beating while most of the solvent, but still sinking in their boots.

"Thus when the fresh pelts were offered last December the mink buyers were a thoroughly chastened lot. There were a few of them who still had good buying power and they stepped into the market in a limited way. What actually occurred was that these people were quite interested in selected lots of standard mink and paid good prices for what they wanted. However, they neglected all the medium qualities so that while we heard all about the top prices we did not realize that there were mink were not selling very well. This situation continued on through December, but by the time the January sales came around and the bulk of our ranch goods appeared on the market, the trade became very cautious and to a steady increasing degree neglected the offerings until the March sale when very little goods changed hands.

"We have all seen low prices before, but the thing that bothers us now is the fact that even with low prices the buyers are reluctant to take on fresh goods. Mink buyers are on the principle that they will recover your losses in the point where you lost the original investment. Mink prices, especially Standard Mink, are so low that you would think that these buyers would at least load up partially in the prospect of mink strengthening and giving them a chance to make a nice comeback financially. This is not the case."

Discussing the embargoes placed on furs in the United States and France, Dr. Bowness states: "World conditions at the present moment tend to be pessimistic. France has clamped down a temporary embargo on all fur purchases from dollar countries. Russia, who is now prevented from selling furs in the United States, is dumping those furs in Europe and further depressing world prices. Fur sales both in foxes and mink have dried up from the retailers' point of view and no mink or fox buyer is going to load up on pelts, even though the price be low, for fear of two things. First, that he may have to hold the goods for too long before he can get his money out of them, and secondly that even though the prices seem to be rock-bottom now, that mink and foxes may sell still lower in the next few months.

Regarding dollar parity he writes: "For years the American buyers coming up from New York and other U.S. centres had a favorable 10 per cent exchange on their money. This meant that the buyer could buy a dollar's worth of goods for ninety cents and as a business getter it was quite an attraction. Today with our dollar at parity and on some days worth more than the American dollar, the reverse situation has its drawbacks. We do not believe that parity between the Canadian and American dollar has driven away business but it has taken away an encouragement that brought many American buyers to Montreal."

Dr. Bowness then goes on to stress the fact that he believes too much economy has been practised in the feeding of foxes and that in the opinion of selling agencies this year's crop of mink is generally poorer than last year. In the case of standard mink the market wants them big, black and well furred. In the trade's opinion the 1951 crop has lacked size. They believe that the rising costs of horse meat and the difficulty in procuring it and other feeds caused many ranchers not to feed as wisely in 1951 as they did in previous years. There is no doubt a great deal of truth in this belief and reading various fox publications we note where in the United States and European countries all kinds of substitutes are being given for horse meat which has been a standard fox and mink feed for 80 many years. However, the

situation is this, in many countries horse meat is almost unobtainable or it has reached a price that places it out of the reach of any but ranchers who are producing the most expensive type of mink pelts such as Sapphires and others. True, whale meat has been lauded as a substitute but whale meat delivered in this province, or in fact anywhere in Canada, would cost around 8c a pound. Here we have not suffered to the same extent as Ontario and other provinces in regard to horse meat, but the supply of horse meat is rapidly running out as our farmers become fully mechanized and it will not be very long before horse meat will be a thing of the past with us.

Dr. Bowness in his summary shows that the picture is not all black as regards mink, and states that there is no doubt but that Sapphire mink will continue their winning ways and bring very nice returns to the rancher producing them. Pastel, Silverblue and Aleutian mink, while down considerably from last year's prices, will still pay a nice return. Some ranchers who are producing dark mink either as straight standards or as half-bloods along with a sizable mutation herd, claim they will kill all standard-appearing females as soon as they count the litters. In other words they will only raise the large standard males and hope they will break even on these animals next fall. This might work if only a few people did it but as both males and females are required in normal coat manufacture, we feel that too widespread following of this plan would only defeat itself.

In regard to foxes, he believes that much of the above picture applies to them. "Actually, foxes have been doing fairly well this winter until the French government announced its embargo on foxes going into France. As France was one of our larger export markets, it brought everything to a stop during the March sales. However, the fox situation is not too bad because buyers are beginning to ask where are we keeping the rest of the Platinaums, Pearl Platinaums and other types that interest them. They cannot understand that market prices during the last four years has resulted in fewer and fewer of these animals reaching the market and that now the small quantities that they see are all the foxes of those types. Whether they believe it or not, the situation is arriving when quantities will be so restricted that any buying pressure will result in a rapid rise in price. Most of the offerings of late were stale goods and some of it was really stale. The buyers have had some pretty grim experiences with stale goods in the last year or so and it looks like they will leave that type of article right where it is. We feel that any brightening in the world market picture will result in a very satisfactory movement of fresh fox pelts."

HASTINGS, England (CP)—This historic seaside resort is sending a double-decker bus on a publicity tour of all England. The bus has a booking office on the lower deck and shows movies on top.

Hereford Breeders Meeting

A special meeting of the P. E. Island Hereford Breeders Association will be held Tuesday, April 8th, at 1 p. m. in the Provincial Department of Agriculture building here.

GEORGE KITSON, President.

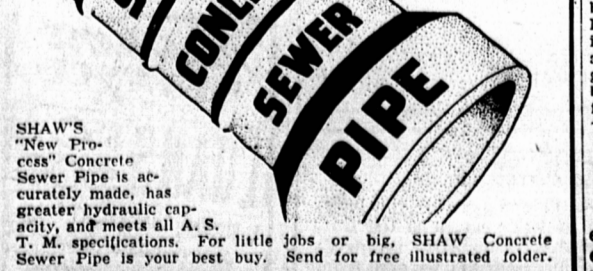
NOTICE

A meeting of all (1952) committees and any interested in holding a Fat Stock Show and Sale in 1953 will be held in the Provincial Department of Agriculture offices, Richmond St., on Wednesday, April 9, 1952, at 1 P.M.

DR. J. P. LANTZ, Chairman.

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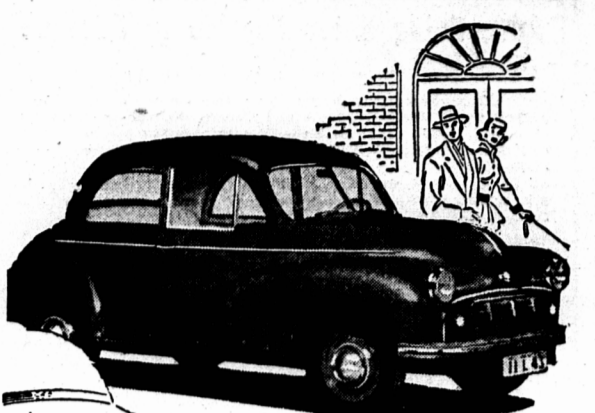
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The Annual Meeting of the Patrons and Shareholders of New Glasgow Dairying Co., will be held in New Glasgow Hall on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 9th, 2 p.m.
VERNON HILL, Secretary.

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