Timely Notes On Fur Farming

As of date of March 1st some 75 to 80 per cent of the American ranch and mutation mink crop has been marketed since December. By the end of February United States auction houses had sold over 1,600,000 mink pelts, or about 60 per cent of the expected national crop of 2,8000,000. Non-auction sales on which no data is available may have pushed the total quantity already marketed up as high as 2,2000,000. This is a much faster rate than last year and without doubt the fastest rate in history. A year ago at this time it was figured that 65 to 70 per cent of the crop had been marketed, so you can see what a great difference there is between the demand for mink this year and last year. The great bulk of the crop that has been sold has been dressed and much of it marketed and in addition a large quantity of mink pelts has been exported to Europe this year. These have not been dressed in the United States.

As has been the practise for several years a moratorium on ranch mink sales has been called in the United States for the month of March. In April and May sales of fine quality pelts are scheduled but quantities will be specifically less than have been offered during January and February. The leading mink dressers are finally out from under the deluge of mink which poured in on them during the ten weeks or so of the season. By now most of the dealers have representative stocks on hand and manfacturers have begun slowly to get up the new crop. The unshakable strength of the mink market remains a topic in the trade. Preseason predictions of easier price levels in such items as pastels and sapphires have been off base. Instead, pastels have remained very stable. Sapphires have become stronger. Silverblus have inched up. Foreign purchasing has been a strong influence in maintaining the high price structure. From here on in odds favor continued strength, according to most trade observers.

We are glad to give such an optimistic resume on the market sales to date in the United States, which are equally applicable to those in Canada and elsewhere, and also to note that the outlook for the future is a rosy one. Our mink farmers in the Maritimes and throughout Canada deserve great credit for the strides they have made in improving their herds, bringing in new mutations and creating a quality article that brings buyers from the United States, Great Britain and the continent to Montreal for auction sales.

At Oslo, Norway, fur auctions some 2,500 blue fox was 44 per cent sold. The average price was about $30 and the top price was about $45. Some 2000 silver fox was 92 per cent sold averaging about $19 and a top of $36.

Looking through some old correspondence we found a treasured letter from the late Robert W. Fraser of Lampson, Fraser and Huth, New York City, and we think our readers may be interested in it. It is dated January 31, 1947 . . . . "One day last November when I was in the hospital in New York, Dr. Ronnie MacDonald of Saskatoon was good enough to come in to see me and the conversation turned to the silver fox business and to the early days of fox breeding. Dr. MacDonald thought there should be a history of the silver fox business written from its inception by Charles Dalton up to the present time. As you know, I was very well acquainted with Mr. Dalton and every time I visited the Island I spent at least one whole day with him at the Hackett Hotel in Tignish, at which times he would tell me how the business started and of the trials and tribulations he went through before he succeeded in producing those beautiful foxes which realized so much money and all of which were sold by C. M. Lampson and Co., in London.

"I many times suggested to Mr Dalton that he should write a history of the business but he always said he was no writer, and my answer to that was that all he would have to do would be to sit alongside of someone who could write and talk to him as he did to me. I am sure a most interesting story or book would have resulted. It woud seem like a fairy story and I have a few documents which I would gladly lend anyone contemplating writing such a book. For instance, I have a letter dated February 2, 1900, which my father, Alfred Fraser, wrote in longhand to Mr. Dalton about a black fox which he had consigned to Lampton's and which they sold at their winter sale in 1900 for £390. The pound at that time was worth practically $5.00. This was the highest price ever realized up to that date. The total offering of silver fox at that sale was 250 skins.

"This letter, I believe, is the first ever to have been written in connection with ranch raised silver fox. I have also a copy of C. M. Lampson and Co.'s account sale of March, 1910, showing the termendous prices they realized for Dalton's 24 skins. The top price was £540 and there was also another skin sold at $530. The 24 skins averaged $284 15s 10d, or an average of $1,385.98 per skin. I have also an autographed photograph of Mr. Dalton in the original ranch at Tignish, together with some letters in his own handwriting. I have a very clear recollection of the skins that brought those tremendous prices as I sat in the auction box in London at the time the skins were sold.

In talking to Mr. Dalton at various times he told me how he first came to consign his skins to London. I also remember a good many details in connection with the sale of his skins and of the secret manner in which he was advised of the prices realized, and the secretive way in which the proceeds of the sale were forwarded to him " . . . We regret that we did not take advantage of Mr. Fraser's offer to supply us with more information because some time it would make quite a story, in fact an almost unbelievable one, that Mr. Dalton and his partner, Robert Oulton, could, with some wild-caught Prince Edward Island foxes, develop a strain that would bring such astounding prices on the world's greatest fur market.

A pair of pillows made of pastel mink has been created by Endelman-Feinberg, Inc., manufacturers, for use as a decorative item in the home. The pillows were ordered by Mrs. Katherine Pinkerton, author of "Bright With Silver," the story of Fromm Bros.

White fox furs were in excellent demand at the closing day's sale of Hudson's Bay Co., Montreal, particularly by American buyers. The company officially reported 99 per cent of this type of fur sold at firm prices compared to the January sale. Percentages reached in mink were not so high — wild mink sold 70 per cent and standard darks 74 per cent, but demand was declared as "very good." Prices of wild mink levelled off slightly compared to January, but ranched types were firm. Mutations likewise obtained good marks and were reported at 56 per cent sold, with good interest in finer merchandise. Highest level in the collection of ranch mink from Canada Mink Breeders (6,673 skins) was $33 for XDK males, while top in the collection from independent shippers (5,807 skins) was $30.50. Top price in platinum mink (5,512 skins) was $32 for breath of spring males, and $16.75 for females. Highest price in pastels (2,370 skins) was $23.50 for males, while females were $17.50. Sapphires (1,014 skins) reached a top of $45.50 for males, and $25.50 for females.

Workshop Patterns

by Ruth Wyeth Spears

There are three separate projects on today's pattern as pictured above. Making these useful things is a good way to use up scrap that has accumulated from large jobs. Material is either quarter or three eighths inches thick and no piece is longer than nine inches. Front panels of lamp and book ends are decorated to resemble tiles framed with natural wood. The box is enameled red and white and then decorated. The decorations require no particular skill in painting as the pattern gives full size designs of trace directly onto the wood. Then the colors are filled in according to directions. Pattern 332 is 35 cents or it will be included in the packet of painting patterns for $1.50 postpaid. Home Workshop Department, The Guardian, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Alma

—Mr. and Mrs. Lawson McNevin and son, Coleman, visited relatives in Alma recently.

Mr. and Mrs. J. William Profit and children, Summerside, were week-end guests of Mrs. Profit's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Mountain, Alma.

Mrs. Malcolm Rayner, is spending a few weeks visiting her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Yeo, Saint John, N. B.

Dulles Supports Tariff Cuts

WASHINGTON (Reuters)—State Secretary Dulles said Monday that Britain could not live on a diet consisting only of a balanced budget.

"They can have the best balanced budget in the world, but without international trade, the British people can still die of starvation," he said in a new plea for Senate approval of President Eisenhower's liberalized trade program.

Dulles testified before the Senate finance committee considering President Eisenhower's request for a three-year extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act and for authority to cut tariffs on selected imports during the same period. The bill already has been passed by the House of Representatives.

Dulles angrily retorted to questions by Senator Robert Kerr (Dem. Okla.) who suggested that Britain had a balanced budget—while the United States still had a deficit — and that the Eisenhower administration might well concentrate on protecting United States business, which he said was being hard hit by foreign competition.

Dulles disagreed with Keer's statement that foreign competition was forcing a substantial section of United States industry "to the wall."

The whole theory of the American economy had always been that it should be competitive within itself and with the rest of the world. Many businesses had always suffered from Competition within the United States itself but he stressed that this was the price in a free economy.

Brookfield Calf Club Wins County Crokinole

A semi-final of the Junior Farmer's Crokinole Competition was held at the Vocational School Assembly Hall, Tuesday evening, March 15 with eight teams competing.

Emerson MacRae and Jackie Chandler representing the Brookfield Calf Club won all their games while Chrys Judson and Glen Beaton representing Alexandra Junior Red Cross lost one game to place second. These two teams will compete in the Island finals which will be announced later. Other teams competing were the Alexandra Calf Club, Morris MacCabe and David Judson; Dunstaffnage United Y. P. U., Mark Johnston and Jerry MacCallum; Union Road U. P. U., Sterling Yeo and Ian MacArthur, Harrington Sewing Club, Beverley Hughes and Myrna Docherty; Brackley Point Seaside Calf Club, Stanley Skeffington and Gordon MacCallum; St. Georges Junior Farmers; Anthony Campbell and Gerald Johnston.

R. A. Pierce, Kings County Fieldman conducted the competition and presented prizes to the two top teams.

Twenty-two teams entered the Competition, from which a total of six teams will compete in the finals.

A semi-final contest will be held in Prince County where teams in that area will compete.

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, B.Sc.

A CANADIAN PIC NIC IN FLORIDA

A group of Canadians from the West Central section of Florida gathered in the Hillsborough River State Park, (area 2637 acres) on Thursday, Feb. 24th, 1955, for their annual picnic. Their first picnic, held in 1953 brought 43 Canadians together for an enjoyable social gathering. Last year the number had increased, but the day turned wet and though they had a lighted pavilion, the weather to some extent dampened their conclave.. This year everything was favorable and 100 Canadians had a very enjoyable holiday in a very beautiful park located in Hillsborough County on the Hillsborough River; 7 miles from Zephyrhills and 22 miles north from Tampa on Route No. 301.

There was an extensive central picnic area, near the river, with a large lighted pavilion that had tables and seats. There were rest rooms, a refreshment building, fire-places and a supply of bundled firewood for cooking. Nearby in a large parking area there were a number of hand trucks to move supplies from cars to tables.

The majority of those present were from Ontario, with Leamington supplying the greatest number from any centre, but there were representatives from Peace River in Alberta and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island with others from Saskatchewan, Quebec and New Brunswick. Some had husbands or wives from Ireland, England, Scotland and Austria. A scotchman, with tartan and tam, who entertained the group with stories and readings, had the good Irish name of Doyle.

When all had registered and the groups had spread their viands on the tables; grace was sung: "Be Present At Our Table Lord." Then each couple or individual stood, gave name and home address and any personal comment that occurred to them. The representatives from the "Old Sod" said: "Me Mither and Father were Irish and I was Irish too, we sold a shovel for six pence and it was Irish too." Generous quantities of provisions were on hand and exchanged among groups to provide variety. Some spent the day in the park and had enonugh food for their supper. The games were original and amusing and suitable prizes were provided.

* * *

To reach the park from Lakeland we had driven north to Griffin then west through Knights, where we crossed Route 39. The highway was an undulating old pavement which gave one the motion of a small boat against a moderate sea. We turned north again on the new highway No. 301 that runs from Tampa to Ocola and turned into the park a few miles from the junction.

This drive had taken us through a part of the great central citrus belt of Florida. We saw large groves where the trees were loaded with ripe oranges. There were groves of grapefruit with loaders and trucks busy taking off the crop. We also passed lemon and tangarine groves though these trees were more often mixed with other citrus fruit.

We passed quite a number of new large plantations. One that extended for about a mile along the highways had trees that had only been set a few years; the trees were still mounded up with earth for a foot or more. These trees had branches and healthy green leaves. Another area was being planted and had several acres on which the trees were being set. The young trees pruned to two spikes at the top, without leaves, were mounded with earth so that only about 8 inches of stem showed.

There were groves of orange trees that had been planted five or more years that had some trees just loaded with fruit. Some orange trees were in full bloom, others had both bloom and mature oranges. The recent frosts in Florida did not injure the citrus fruit in this area, but it is thought it may have injured some of the trees that were in bloom.

* * *

The Canadians present, organized for future picnics, by electing officers and receiving contributions to provide prizes for games, advertising and other expenses.

The heavily wooded park has many miles of roadways and trails that lead to open glens and glades or down to the shore of Hillsborough River. There are picnic tables and fire places located at many points on these. Southern pine were the most numerous trees on the sandy soil which is well suited to their growth. There are many other kinds of trees and the largest we happened to see were live oaks, which were more than two feet in diameter. This tree retains its leaves the year round and was once in great demand for building wooden ships.

Information concerning the birds, fish, and animals and reptiles was placed under shelters near the central parking area. The one containing the pictures in natural colors of about 100 birds that may usually be seen in the park had the pictures arranged under cellophane with just the head of a screw projecting under each. The names were in columns under cellophane along side with the head of a screw under each name. A copper wire hung at each side of the placard and when the wire on th left was placed on the head of the screw under a picture and the wire on the right was touched on the screw under the correct name an electric battery rang a bell.

To find the name of any bird the wire on the left could be placed on the screw beneath it and the wire on the right touched on the screws below the names until it rang the bell below the correct name.

Education Week Observed At South Freetown

The South Freetown Home and School Association observed Education week on March 11 with a special program by the pupils and having as guest speaker Mr. Allison Profitt of Lower Freetown.

Home and School president Mrs. E. Drummond presided and extended a warm welcome to those present. She then turned the meeting over to the teacher, Mrs. E. Gauthier under whose direction the following program was heard: Opening Chorus, School Days; Panel Discussion by Thane, Irwin, Garth Drummond; Selection, Highways, Connie and Verden Reeves, Mary Heffel and Gail Drummond; Monologue, Bayfield Reeves; Song, Thelma Perry; Exercise, God Save Our Queen; Queen, Norma Stetson; South Africa, Shirley Reeves; New Zealand, Linda Stetson; India, Marie Gauthier; Pakistan, Caroll Reeves; Australia, Janet Stetson; Gold Coast, Judy Perry; Sir John MacDonald, Arthur Gauthier; Sir Wilfred Laurier, Ross Drummond; Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, Ray Stackhouse; A new Canadian, Wesley Heffel.

Mrs. Drummond expressed her personal appreciation also that of H. & S. and those present to teacher and pupils for their excellent program and fine performance.

The secretary of H & S, Mrs. Wallace Reeves, was next called upon to read "a Historical sketch of South Freetown Home and School".

Mr. A. Profitt as guest speaker was then presented to the meeting. After commending the district as a whole for their time and effort expended on the school and educational matters in general he stated he felt the academic side of education was being treated by others so he choose to deal with another phase of education and announced his topic in three words "Do You Know?"

"Do you know that our children's tendencies and view points are formed by the time they enter school?" declared the speaker, and continued, "fathers and mothers in the home have an unsurpassed opportunity and responsibility in the home to instill Christian principles and conduct ere their children leave their influences to enter the larger world."

In connection with the foregoing Mr. Profitt related the story of a young Russian who had fled the country and whom the speaker had heard tell of the incident in a meeting in which he had been in attendance in Toronto recently.

His first day of school this young Russian told the group the teacher asked if any of the boys or girls had that morning prayed to God? When a few little hands were raised the teacher asked them to come to the front of the room and tell him what they had said in their prayer upon receiving the desired information the teacher now asked them to pray for a bag of candy. The little ones compiled and no candy was forthcoming. The teacher then asked the other members of the class to whom they prayed. The reply received was that they prayed to Stalin or the State and now the teacher requests this group to pray for candy to Stalin. As soon as they had complied, the door opened and candy was being delivered. The teacher then used the incident or object lesson to put across the young minds that the idea of God hearing or being able to do anything was nil.

And added the Russian Narrator, don't think you can stamp out this thing with guns! What is needed is daily living out of Christian principles and truth. Don't hate the Communist" he pleaded, they are caught in the grip of this thing and can't help themselves.

Do you know? Mr. Profitt continued and gave statistical data relative to world population increases, food production, world literacy and challenged his hearers to the necessity of thinking in world terms. He referred to the Colombo Plan and the United Nations Technical Assistance Plan.

"Why must we today be prepared to give of our abundance of grain and scientific resources?" asked the speaker and added "Such was not the case some years ago." It is because in times past lack of communications kept one half of the world from knowing what the other half did. Today just as we can obtain news and happenings from the other side of the world the day they occur. So they can hear from our western world what goes on daily and it is up to us to make good our way of life to the underprivileged. If we of the Western world fail to do so, rest assured Communist ideology stands eager to take over territories and as a defence against such action it is our duty to share what we have.

Do you know? Education must be with a purpose. Mere knowledge of facts and skills is not enough alone unless linked to a purpose. When one considers that the Creator made us each a distinct individual and as it were breaks the mold. Therefore as individuals our task is unique and that no one else can fulfil it.

The purpose of education should therefore build christian character. Character that will reach out into the worlds ills and needs inspired by tuneless words."I was an hungered and ye gave me meat. I was thirsty and ye gave me drink, I was a stranger and ye took me in, naked and ye clothed me, ... Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these little ones ye did it unto me.

Mr. Eldon Drummond moved a vote of thanks to the speaker and was seconded by Wilbert Drummond.

Mrs. E. Drummond also thanked the speaker on behalf of H & S.

Refreshments were served by ladies of H & S and the Queen brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

South Rustico

The many friends of Mr. Theopholes Blanchard, South Rustico, are sorry to learn that she is back again in the Charlottetown Hospital for treatment. All wish her a speedy and lasting recovery.

Mr. Amos Gallant, South Rustico met with a painful accident this week. Coming out of his feed shed Mr. Gallant slipped and fell on the step hurting his back and hip. He was taken to the Charlottetown Hospital for X-rays which showed no bones broken, but he has to remain in hospital for treatment. All hope to see Mr. Gallant out real soon again.

Mrs. Adolph Gallant, South Rustico, has returned home much improved after being in the Charlottetown Hospital for treatment.

Mrs. Frank Doucette of South Rustico spent a few days visiting with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Carragher and family, Charlottetown.

Mrs. Andrew Doucette of Souris is visiting at the home of her neice Mrs. Edmund Gallant and Mr. Gallant, Oyster Bed and also plans to visit other relatives and friends in Rustico.

Donald Durant of South Rustico met with an unexpected bath Sunday afternoon while playing on the pon. Don was in the act of taking a drink when the ice sank under him leaving him in about 12 feet of water. Luckily the opening wasn't very wide and he swam to the edge and pulled himself up on the boards. A neighbour boy, Alyre Gallant, took him right up to his place and gave him a dry change of clothes to go home with. Don was none the worse for his experience.

The South Rustico Parish has again resumed the Christian Doctrine Study Club, and study clubs are held once a week in different localities. Mrs. Lawrence Durant was chosen leader for the Buffalo Road. The first meeting was held March 2nd, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Durant to get organized. Mrs. Bruno Doucette then invited the study club to meet at her home March 8, Tuesday evening. A good crowd was in attendance, meeting was opened with prayer. A discussion was held and questions asked. Miss Eileen Gallant was voted secretary and took down the minutes of the evening. A collection was taken up in order to help buy a new carpet for the Sanctuary of the Parish Church. The meeting was closed by saying the rosary. Mrs. Ben Martin invited the study club to be held at her home next week.

SEVEN MILE BAY C. W. L.

—The members of St. Peter's Sub-Division of the C. W. L. met in the Vestry after Benediction on Sunday evening, March 6th. The President called the meeting to order and was opened with the recitation of the League Prayer by the Director, Rev. Fr. Reginald McDonald. Seventeen members were present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The following correspondence was received, Miss Arsenault, Canadian Red Cross Society; Mrs. Murray, Convener of Education; Mrs. Basil McDonald, Provincial President of the C. W. League; Mr. Dewar, March of Dimes; Mrs. Mullins, Convener of Our Lady of Missionaries; Mrs. Burge, Convener of League Magazines; Mrs. Linkletter, Convener of Girl Guides; Rev. Fr. Walsh, Sacred Heart Program; Mrs. L. L. Noonan, Convener of Art Drawing; Mrs. Peter Kelley, Convener of Radio, T.V. and Films; Mrs. Gallant, Convener of Honorary members; Mrs. W. J. P. McMillan, Convener of Immigration; Card of Thanks from Carmichael family; Card of Thanks from Fr. McDonald and Fr. Hammill for Christmas gift received.

A paper given by Sister Mary Peter, C.S.S.M. at C. W. L. Conference at Kinkora, was held over to be read at next meeting. A receipt acknowledging the spiritual bouquet and personal gift to Most Rev. Malcolm McEachern was received.

The Treasurer gave her report the Convener of the Altar Committee reported material bought and being made for covering statues for Passion Week.

A lunch committee was appointed to serve lunch to play cast on March 17th. Collection amounted to $1.70. Meeting adjourned with Act of Consecration being recited by Director Rev. Fr. McDonald.

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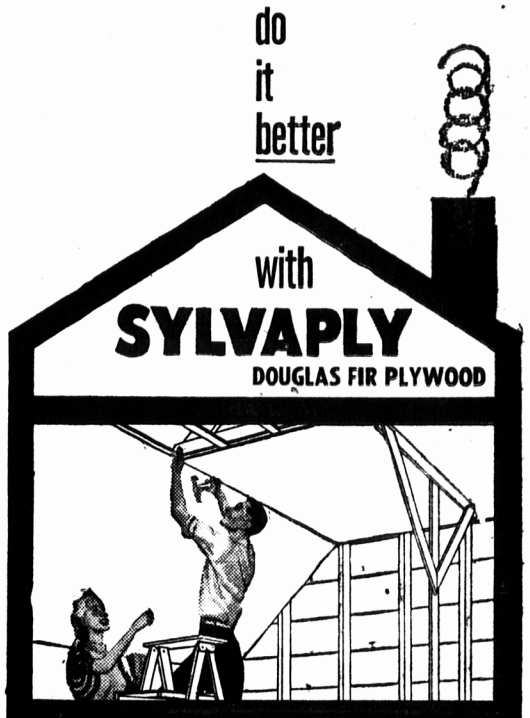

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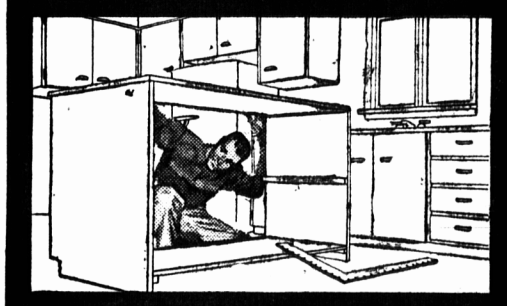

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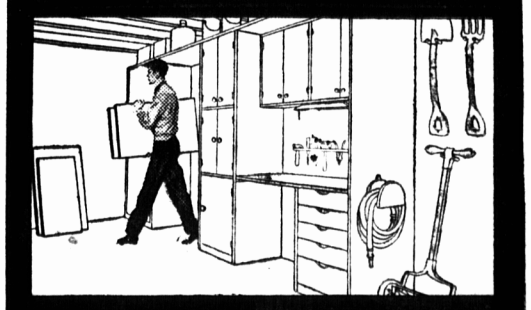

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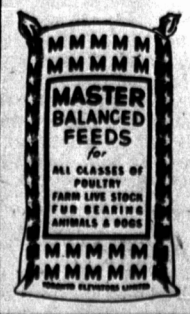

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