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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



The Chicago Better Business Bureau have issued a warning to investors that security sharps are again active in promoting the sale of stock in silver fox branches. Gordon E. Smith, Manager of the Bureau's investment division, says: "Silver foxes at present are worth about \$40 each. Promoters are trying to unload them at \$1,000 to \$2,000 per pair, using the same claims which fooled investors in the late investment which will increase by leaps and bounds because the foxes multiply rapidly."

Fur farmers in the Western States have been carrying on under severe weather difficulties this winter. In Minnesota prior to the 17th of February there were thirty-one consecutive days of below zero temperatures. For over a week the temperature lingered between twenty and fifty-five below. Snow fall was deep and badly drifted.

After a blizzard in early February at Marshall, Minnesota, the snow drift covered the fox kennels of Art Gunderson's ranch to a depth of ten feet. The snow was packed so hard that it took gangs of men four days to dig the kennels out. During their entombment the foxes received no food or attention. All the animals were alive when uncovered but some showed sluggish condition.

The American Fur Breeder in its March number editorially is of the opinion that the prolonged cold weather and great snow fall through the western United States will have a considerable effect on this season's production. It says a lower production can be anticipated.

The Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States, which is in charge of Frank G. Ashbrooke, has issued a report on fox farming in which Mr. Ashbrooke claims that in less than fifteen years the annual crop of fox pelts has increased from 6,000 pelts in 1923 to more than 170,000 pelts in 1934. This season's (1935) pelting, which started in November and will last through the winter months will likely produce a crop slightly larger than last year's. Virtually all of last season's pelts, which brought the fox farmer \$7,114,500, were disposed of by the fur trade before the present pelting season got under way.

Yesterday Mr. Crisp Moore of

Westmoreland celebrated his 80th birthday quietly at home. Mr. Moore has lived during the reign of four Sovereigns, was born on April 24, 1856. May your shadow never grow less, friend Crisp.

The American Fur Breeder takes issue with Mr. Ashbrooke on the number of pelts marketed in the United States. It claims that he is 50,000 out in his figures and that he is only guessing. It says: "Most of the guesses are based on auction figures. Auction figures are far from correct. One hundred per cent sales are rare. Skins that do not move at shippers value are brought back or bought in and annually they swell the totals of each succeeding auction. A small percentage of by-backs at each sale will add up to a surprisingly large total by the end of a selling season."

Regarding the suggestion that the duty on silver fox pelts be reduced or removed the Fur Breeder says: "Fox ranchers of this country tremble in their boots every time the suggestion is made that the tariff on silver fox pelts be reduced or removed. The vision of 50,000 foreign pelts dumped into our markets is enough to give every American fur breeder the nightmare; and so we ask you about a mythical 50,000 silver fox pelts dumped into our markets by our own government statistical branch. If grain production figures were guessed at in like manner you would hear a howl from every arming section of the United States. Well, Fur Breeder, it looks like it is our night to howl!"

The total exports of furs from Alaska during 1935 showed a decrease of half a million dollars compared to 1934. Exports in 1934 were \$1,951,701. In 1935 they dropped to \$1,416,037. Of the decrease nearly \$390,000 is attributed to the restriction of heavier catches.

The number of beaver pelts shipped was 11,136 as compared to 44,823 in 1934. Other decreases were noted in marten, black bear, coyote, blue fox, muskrat, otter, wolf and wolverine. The number of mink pelts caught increased from 57,858 to 60,501, but the price dropped from \$9.16 per pelt in 1934 to \$7.20 per pelt in 1935, a total decrease of \$94,500. Price decreases cause some restrictions in value despite increased catches in red fox and marten.

On the Pribilof Islands blue foxes showed a jump from 912 to 983 pelts and the year's shipments increased in value from \$18,700 to \$20,300. White foxes showed a small decrease. Altogether 265,380 pelts were caught in 1935 as compared to 395,654 in 1934.

It may perhaps be interesting to our farmers to learn the average prices obtained for some of the furs shipped from Alaska during the year 1935. Red foxes \$9.65, ermine \$17.75, silver foxes \$44.00, black foxes \$22.00. (The total number of silvers was 1,338 and blacks 17) white foxes \$20.10, blue foxes \$24.75, lynx \$21.50, marten \$14.80.

Several enterprising firms last winter made a lot of money shipping jack rabbit meat from North Dakota and Montana to fox ranchers throughout the United States. One man dressed and marketed over 50,000 rabbits. He had twenty men employed in preparing the carcasses or shipment. The pelts—which are a by-product—were sold to hat manufacturers in New York. Hunters received approximately seven cents for a frozen rabbit.

LaRevue des Elevurs de Renards is the latest fur farming publication. It is printed in the French language and publication offices are at Gardenvale, Quebec. It carries the official sanction of the Canadian National Fox Breeders Association and will be a medium for keeping French-Canadian fur farmers of Quebec, Ontario, and other Canadian provinces, abreast of the times.

In a recent issue of the Soviet magazine "Construction" which is devoted to the Soviet fur breeding industry, is the following: It can be said with the utmost confidence that sables will be bred in the near future with the same success as silver fox. 200 sables in the forest inhabit an enormous territory, but on the farm at Pushkino near Moscow, as many as are being raised on a plot of about 400 square yards. A new epoch in the life of the sable has begun.

During the hundreds of years in which sables have been hunted, the simple fact that now forms the basis of their artificial breeding was never discovered. It had always been believed that like other fur bearing animals they mated during the winter, in February. Although they had even been caught and kept in cages every attempt at mating them was unsuccessful. It seemed as if they could not, or would not, mate under artificial conditions. The trappers, however, had been observing the animals in winter only, but when biologists began to study the problem scientifically they discovered that it was in the summer sables mated. As soon as this characteristic, the summer mating, had been verified, sables were bred in the Moscow Zoological Gardens and then on fur farms and preserves. The magazine is adorned with many figures of foxes, squirrels, raccoon and sables.

The second half of the magazine is devoted to the hunting of the wild mountain sheep and the state breeding of Caracul and Astrakhan

Noted Farmer and Fox Rancher



MR. GEORGE D. WARREN Howlan, P.E.I.

lamb. There is considerable about the development of the fur dressing industry, which is claimed to be the largest in the world. In the fifteen establishments in Moscow, Leningrad and other towns, 27,000 workers are employed. The value of the output rose from thirty million rubles in 1928 to 350 millions in 1934. In the second five year plan, which is now under way, a factory in Moscow with an annual capacity of 2,700,000 Caracul and 12,000,000 rabbit skins and one in Kazan to handle 25,000,000 rabbit skins are scheduled for completion.

Because of the unprecedented and continuous below zero temperatures in Lake Superior region this winter the herring fishing industry has been hit to an estimated extent of \$110,000. These herring were sold in large numbers to fox ranchers and they formed a cheap and effective source of food supply as well as giving considerable revenue to fishermen.

Silver fox styles this season vary from the one and two piece neck fur to the popular cape style which can be adjusted to form a cocktail jacket, hip-length cape or a draped style. Movie actresses and those who can afford it, are partial to the two or three skin silver fox scarfs. Another silver fox style, that is in favor is luxurious hip-length capes, the skins being placed in vertical stripes, which give a slenderizing effect to the wearer.

Senator Pope of Idaho has his way, silver fox will not be the only fur on which the United States government place a duty. Addressing the United States Tariff Commission recently he said: "I am advised that great quantities of furs are now being imported from Russia and that these are in competition with furs produced in the United States and are causing terrific price reductions to trappers and their producers of furs. The anti-dumping bill will not apply because it is impossible to ascertain the cost of production in Russia, and furthermore since the government of that country owns everything it cannot subsidize itself within the meaning of our anti-dumping laws. The Russians are under-selling in world markets and the tariff on furs will have to be tightened to meet this unfair competition."

Distressing losses have been reported in some ranches and no doubt they are occurring if not on as large a scale, still on a scale that is too great to make the industry profitable to many. One rancher lost 104 pups before they were four days old. They were born and were apparently well developed, but lacked something wherewithal to battle successfully for life.

Endeavoring to find out the trouble, I questioned the rancher and he was only too pleased to give information. He said it was his practise every year for the past three years to place the females in sheds after mating. The applied to about half his ranch, the remainder were left in outside pens. Excellent results occurred in 1933-34-35, but this year almost every female placed in the sheds gave birth to pups that died at from one to four days. I thought perhaps it might be wrong feeding, but on examining his feed schedule found that theory incorrect. He thought perhaps on account of the mild weather this winter the females did not take sufficient exercise and that caused the pups to be very weak at birth.

Yesterday I spoke to another rancher, a very intelligent one too, who said he had the same experience this season with females placed in sheds and that in future he would have his females whelp in the open pen, just as that juncture Ira Carr came along and he was very emphatic as to the ill effects of placing breeding females in sheds.

Messrs. McLure and MacKinnon leave for Montreal this morning to attend the annual meeting of the McLure & MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Ltd., which will be held in the office of the Hudson's Bay Company, Monday, April 27th.

The Imperial Biscuit Company, has been sold—lock, stock and barrel, as the old saying goes—to John A. McDonald, Southport, who is the largest shareholder in the P. E. I. Biscuit Company, Limited. The Imperial was established in 1921, taking over the business of Ross & McMillan, who were the first people in the world to make fox biscuits and also to incorporate cod liver oil in the biscuit.

In the year 1922 to 1924 the Imperial did business in all parts of

NEWSY NOTES

BY ANNEWOLA

EPISODES IN AFRICAN HISTORY

Six years after annexing the Kameruns, that in 1900, Germany took over that part of Africa known as German Southwest Africa. This great tract—greater than the rest of the German Empire including Germany itself—had originally been relinquished from a mistaken idea of its worthlessness. This notion took its rise from the two great natural barriers which must be traversed in reaching a central country said to be the most salubrious in the world. Approaching Southwest Africa from the east, the traveller must cross the Kalahari Desert, which is worse than the worst that the Sahara can show. There is but one fairly good harbour on the western side, Walferth Bay, which was improved by the British during their occupation of that region. The sea-coast, however is subject to torrential rainstorms; but once past these barriers, a fertile land, rich in gold and diamonds, well suitable for colonization by white men, comes to view.

At the time of the German annexation this district was partly occupied by a fine race called the Hereros. They were estimated to number between eighty and ninety thousand, and were believed to possess 150,000 head of cattle, which of course was their only wealth. Even after the great outbreak of "foot-and-mouth disease" or rinderpest in 1897, they still owned about 80,000 head. By 1902, the Hereros had only 45,898 head of cattle, while the 1,651 German settlers owned 44,487. The wholesale theft of cattle, and the killing of the natives who objected, was well known at Berlin, and was the primary cause of the Herero rebellion of 1904. The Germans were not content to suppress the rising; they decided to exterminate the whole race. Governor Leutwein, who was considered too lenient (?) was recalled, and replaced by von Trotha, who had just covered himself with glory by massacring the whole population of German East Africa, men, women, and children. As a preliminary he invited the Herero chiefs to meet him in a peace conference, as the war was now over. When they came in, they were promptly shot in cold blood. Then von Trotha issued his "Extermination Order" whereby no Herero man, woman, or child was to receive mercy or quarter. "Kill every one of them," said this notorious governor, "and take no prisoners."

When von Trotha ended his task in 1905, there remained 15,000 starving and fugitive Hereros out of the 60,000 or 90,000 who he'd the country before the advent of the Germans, and at the census of 1911 the actual number of this tribe had fallen to 5,130. Another instance of German "frightfulness!"

The other races of Southwest Africa were the Hottentots and Berg-Damaras, and these with the Hereros, were estimated in 1904 to be 130,000 souls. The official census of 1911 gave the total of the three tribes as 37,742. A high German official had said: "It is applicable to a nation in the same way as to the individual that the right of existence is primarily justified in the degree that such existence is useful for progress and general development." Obviously the Hereros had not measured up to the German standard.

I wonder if any of my readers remember the "Congo atrocities?" The Belgian Congo is an immense tract, of 910,000 square miles, right in the heart of equatorial Africa. Belgium is a well-governed kingdom of industrious people, and this was perhaps what induced the great powers late in the nineteenth century to hand over this territory to Belgium instead of making it a bone of contention between themselves. Now Britain, although her

hands are not absolutely clean in dealing with native races, has had such experience in government that she sends out as rulers what we would call "decent fellows," lovers of justice, and in general inclined to treat most unpromising situations with a great measure of good humor. The Belgian government had had no such experience, and their district commissioners or whatever they called their appointees, were as a rule the "black sheep" of noble families and had been shipped off to the Congo as a means of getting rid of them. Away from all social amenities these men rapidly deteriorated and in character became more savage than the natives themselves.

Presently time-expired missionaries from the Congo began to arrive in England, and ghastly were the tales they told. I can recall one of the worst. One of the Belgian administrators, who was addicted to "squashes" (squashes, so called from the shape of the bottle) returned to his quarters for dinner, in a drunken condition. The table was not set to suit him, so he called in his native servant and shot him. Then he bade the other servants decapitate the body and boil the head. When this was done he forced them, at the point of his revolver, to drink the "broth." The stories caused such indignation throughout the country, that the matter came before the House of Commons, which after full investigation, sent a remonstrance to the Belgian government. As Belgium depended upon England as a protector (under the treaty of 1839) she immediately withdrew the offending executives and the incident was closed.

The native Africans have little reason to be grateful to the "Christian" white races.

ODDS AND ENDS

An economic problem: Three or four years ago when I sold my pork I got 6 cts. a pound for it, which was below cost of production. I figured. "Aged hogs" went for half that price or less. That fall I was in town and bought a pound of sliced bacon just to see what the charge was! It was 38 cts.

This year the farmer gets 11 cts. for his pork and a newspaper ad. says "frying bacon" is 30 cts. per lb. Not such a spread, why?

New use for owls: Sometimes in summer one sees an immense flock of crows swirling about, with deafening cries, over some particular grove of spruce. There is an owl or some sort in the grove, and the crows will spend an hour or two baiting it. According to the Toronto Star, the sportsmen and gamekeepers in Hungary make use of this peculiarity to lure the wily crows to destruction. It is next to impossible to get a shot at the crows in an ordinary way, so the game-keeper puts out a live owl as a decoy, chaining it to a perch. Then he builds a "blind" or hiding place in gun-range and waits events. Soon a crow comes along, sees the owl, and makes the welkin ring with alarms. All the crows within call hurry to the spot and fly around, making dive at the poor owl. Now is the keeper's chance when matters are at their worst he "cuts loose" with his gun, but as long as the owl is there the crows will return to the fray. "Record bags of 300 crows in one day have been taken in Ohio by sportsmen equipped with an owl." A stuffed owl, or a mechanical effigy of one, will work almost as well.

The "Cloth of Gold" Crocus which first bloomed on March 18th, has still a few flowers expanding on April 19th. Spring flowers last longer because the sun is not yet hot enough to force them quickly to maturity. Our summer flowers last about half as long as the same species do in England, owing to the stronger sunlight here.

Man wants but little nor that little long.

Good sense and good humor always give good returns.

An envious person is likely to disparage everything.

When Mother gets a grouch, her favorite audience is Father.

The smartest man often learns something from the most ignorant.

The wolf in sheep's clothing isn't always masquerading as a black sheep.

Flattery isn't apt to do a man much harm—until he starts flattering himself.

There isn't much thrill to success unless one has been quite intimate with failure.

Our happiness or unhappiness of the present is the fruits of acts planted in the past.

Life is full of tomorrows for the fellow who doesn't shut himself in a dark room and think too much of his yesterdays.

BELIEVES VIOLIN MAY BE VALUABLE

CALGARY, April 22—A. Woods of Calgary believes he has a fortune in a violin and will seek expert advice to find out. Handed down to Mr. Woods' family, he has a violin which he believes is a genuine Stradivarius.

It bears the date 1727 and an inscription reads: "Antonius Stradivarius Gremontensis."

The date and inscription were found on the interior of the violin during a recent examination by the owner.

BEND YOUR WAY TO HEALTH AND BEAUTY

"They say a woman is as old as she looks, but I have a theory that she is only as old as her back muscles," declares Donald Loomis, trainer of Hollywood stars.

"Allow the back to grow stiff and the body is no longer flexible," he continued. "The minute muscles become tense and stiff, a woman starts to show her age."

PRESENT KING NOT ENTITLED TO BONUS

(Canadian Press)

EDMONTON, April 24—His Majesty King Edward VIII is a property owner in Alberta and if the time comes when the Social Credit government starts distribution of its \$25-a-month basic dividends he will not be eligible for the "bonus." Only permanent residents will receive monthly dividends.

"His Majesty does not possess the necessary resident qualification," according to information obtained from Premier Aberhart by a London magazine.

Use Minard's for sore throat.

Ross-Miller Fox Foods

Biscuits, Vita Crumbia, Kibblo, Puppy Meal and Cubes can be obtained from my stock at Carter's Warehouse, Grafton Street, Charlottetown, also for sale at the store of Samuel Kennedy, Kent Street, from Mr. Kennedy's own stock.

Orders for shipping promptly attended to.

J. ROBERT MUTCH
Charlottetown, R. R. 5
Distributor for Ross-Miller Biscuit Co. Ltd., Napanee, Ontario

LEGACY TO TWO GIRLS

(Canadian Press)

STAVELY, Alta., April 24—Fortune has smiled on two Stavely, Alta. girls.

A great-aunt who died recently left a \$20,000 legacy which will be shared by the two girls, Miss Cosie Foster, 19-year-old co-ed at the University of Alberta, and her sister Elsie, 17, living with her mother.

The girls will not receive the money, made in India through profits in a linen mill, until they are 21. In the meantime Cosie intends finishing her education.

BOOTLEGGER SELLS CREAM

EDMONTON, April 24—A new kind of bootlegger was caught here after a wild chase by dairy inspectors. Refused a license to sell cream, the man had been bootlegging his product to city housewives. He promised "not to do it again," and was freed.

FOX FOODS-- POULTRY FOODS--

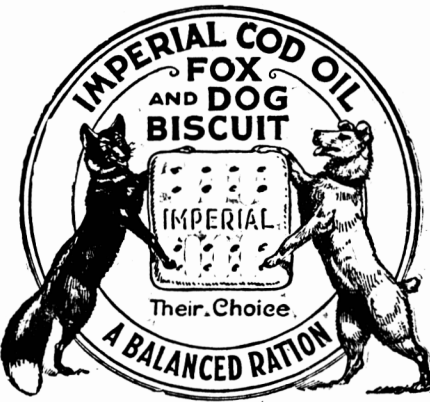
We are now issuing our latest Price List, No. 17, containing lowest prices on fox cubes, fox biscuits, bread meat, fox meats, fox supplies, poultry feeds, mink feeds, etc., etc.

WRITE FOR YOURS AT ONCE

We manufacture the largest variety of fox foods in the Dominion of Canada. All our Silver Tip fox and animal foods are specially mixed and prepared in our animal food factory, the most modern in Eastern Canada.

Our policy is one of continuous improvement.

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SILVER TIP BISCUIT CO. LTD.
MONCTON, N. B.



IMPERIAL PUPPY FOOD

The success, following the use of this popular "Imperial" product during past seasons, has clearly proven its merits to our experienced ranchers, who are planning on feeding liberally this year.

Our formula is specially suited to the needs of the young and growing foxes, is rich in vitamins, and a sure preventative of rickets.

Puppy Food may be order either "Fine Medium" or "Coarse" to suit the rancher's requirements.

Order early so as to be sure of receiving your supply in good time as a heavy demand is anticipated.

Imperial Biscuit Company Ltd.
Box 446 Charlottetown, P.E.I. Phone 721

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The Feed of Champions SHREDDED WHEAT FOX FOOD

Mr. George D. Warren feeding Shredded Wheat as 100% of his cereal ration won at the Alberton Fox Show the—

Grand Champion Fox of Show
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Reserve Champion Male Pup
13 First Prizes
7 Second Prizes

Mr. Warren also won the silver cup for the Grand Champion donated by the Dominion Silver Fox Furs and the Silver Cup for the Champion adult Male donated by the Canadian Shredded Wheat Co., Ltd.

During a period of three years he won 10 Championships, all the Reserve Adult Championships 37 first prizes, 21 second prizes.

Mr. Warren feeds his Shredded Wheat with whole milk, eggs and meat.

Shredded Wheat Fox Food is an economical food, 1 lb. of it will absorb fully 4 lbs. of warm milk and be ready to feed within half an hour. It is prepared from the highest quality wheat. The process of steam cooking, shredding and baking entirely changes the nature of the starch content of the wheat and Shredded Wheat contains no raw starch, thus Shredded Wheat is one of the most nourishing foods for foxes. The Shredded Wheat Fox Food is prepared specially for foxes and is exactly the same as the Shredded Wheat put up in packages for human consumption. Ranchers should beware of the Shredded Wheat Waste which is not fox food at all, and may easily be recognized by its very brown colour. All bags of Fox Feed are stamped in blue "SHREDDED WHEAT FOX FEED made by CANADIAN SHREDDED WHEAT CO., LTD., Niagara Falls, Ont."

It can be purchased at Carter's Warehouse, Grafton Street, Charlottetown.

J. R. MUTCH
Charlottetown, R. R. 5
Prince Edward Island Representative