Flood Control Plan Proposed

GALT (CP) — A $29,220,000 program of flood control and conservation measures for the Grand River was proposed here in a report by the Grand River Conservation Authority.

The authority urges early completion of the program, calling for five dams and a number of river channel improvements, to "prevent death and destruction in the valley" in the event a storm the magnitude of Hurricane Hazel should hit the area. Hazel struck the Toronto area in 1954 and caused widespread damage.

The report estimates flood damage in the Guelph, Galt and Brantford area would total more than $40,000,000 if a Hazel-size storm hit the Grand River valley.

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Forms are available from your Seed Potato Inspector and the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board. The Potato Board pays all entry fees.

It is not necessary to have your samples ready at the time you make out your entry forms. Shipments must be in Toronto on November 3rd so it is necessary that your samples be in the hands of your Seed Potato Inspector not later than October 29th, 1966.

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THIS AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

Show Horse Owner Excelled In Foxes

By NEIL A. MATHESON

Robert S. Humphrey, Kensington is known now for his string of show horses, and his large group of cabins in the National Park. I wonder how many remember him as one of Canada's outstanding breeders of prize winning foxes.

Robert started in the fox business with one pair in 1921. From that modest beginning he became the leading winner at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto in 1927, 1928 and 1929.

In that time he had eleven champions, 12 reserve champions, 30 first prizes, 14 second prizes and 15 lesser prize ribbons.

In The Black Fox Magazine of 1930, or thereabouts — the date is not clear — he said he had a litter of nine pups from his "world champion female, Brookside Queen 52 E". He had three litters with seven pups and 12 litters with six in each.

Back in 1927, for example, Mr. Humphrey had total cash winnings of $626 at the Royal. He had one world championship, four championships and three reserve against the best foxes in the world.

In 1928 the Humphrey foxes made a world's record, an old letter head states, "winning 32 awards, the largest number ever won by an exhibitor."

These included five championships, four reserve champions, nine first prizes, eight seconds and six other placings.

Mr. Humphrey was still in the competitive fox world in 1939 when his foxes won eleven championships, including the grand championship at Charlottetown, and the grand champion pelt at Borden. How many remember that pelt show at Borden?

Bob Humphrey was the man who initiated the idea of sheds for foxes. Not only did this cause a marked improvement in the fur of the foxes, but it also did a great deal to control the lung worm and the hook worm.

I have that from friends of Bob, and also from old clippings from the interesting fox column written in this paper so many years by the late Lt.-Col. D.A. MacKinnon.

Col. MacKinnon suggested in one column that the ravages of the hook worm might well have wiped out the fox industry here, except for "the brilliant thinking of Bob Humphrey who developed the idea of keeping foxes in sheds, and off the ground.

"We believe that the honor of inventing the covered pen, with board floor, and the use of sheds was first thought out by Mr. Humphrey", Col. MacKinnon said.

Others were quick to recognize the benefits of this new idea and a few years later very few farmers raised their animals on the ground, MacKinnon reported.

I'm told that Mr. Humphrey's brother-in-law, Ernest T. Mill, Mills Point was perhaps the second man to adopt the shed idea.

It was about 1925 or 1926 that the Kensington man first tried the shed idea. Col. MacKinnon said that next year when Bob took his foxes to the shows, the difference in color was really startling, compared to the animals that ran around in the open, exposed to the rain, the sun, etc.

STANDARD HAD CHANGED

"When we left home", MacKinnon wrote, "our foxes appeared perfect, and so they were by the standards by which we have been accustomed to judge them; but not when they went up against the shed-raised foxes that had been protected from the weather."

So much for Bob Humphrey and his top rating among foxmen for developing the shed idea for raising the furry animals that were so extremely valuable at that time.

I first met Bob at the old Maritime Winter Fair in Amherst. His grand old mare, Monana, was still winning prizes for him in the standard bred class, though she was 20 years or more at the time. And his Pixie Girl — he still has her — was just about the prettiest piece of horseflesh I've ever set my eyes on when she showed that year as a three-year old.

I can't recall exactly what the year was though I think it must have been getting close to 1950.

Before I leave this story about the shed-raised foxes, and the tremendous benefits the idea bestowed, my mind goes back to Charles Dalton and his early efforts to breed and raise foxes in his barn at Norway, a few miles west of Tignish.

Early history of our fox industry tells us that it was not until Robert Oulton joined forces with Dalton and started to breed and raise the animals in the wild environment, that the job was done successfully.

Yet something close to 20 years later Robert Humphrey found that it was much better to breed and raise foxes under a covered roof, with the animals kept off the ground.

Maybe the pests, like hook worms, were a later development. At any rate Mr. Humphrey rates full mark for the initiative he showed in developing the shed idea, that was followed almost universally by the better breeders of that time.

And this reminds me of a story Col. MacKinnon told me, perhaps 10 years before he died. He was showing foxes in Toronto, at the Royal, or the Canadian National Exhibition, and he used a liquid something like brilliantine to make his foxes appear to better advantage. It gave a sheen and a lustre to the fox fur, that was not present in the natural state.

Other breeders noticed the development with alarm. A protest was registered and a board of enquiry constituted to hear the case.

MacKinnon explained that he had seen other livestock exhibitors use similar methods to produce a glossy coat on their animals. Using the example of cattlemen he told the board he had seen the cattlemen use a shiny oil on the hooves and horns of their cattle, for example. And they had washed and slicked up their animals for the big shows.

The result, Col. MacKinnon told me, was that he was warmly praised by the board of enquiry for his initiative in bringing something new and apparently beneficial to the fox show business. Unfortunately I cannot remember just when this unusual event occurred.

The P.E.I. Fur Breeders Association has made elaborate plans for its field day on Tuesday afternoon and evening, October 18. The plans will be carried out "rain or shine," President Clayton Mills tells me.

The breeders will gather at the ranch of Foster Pickard at 1.30 in the afternoon. The location is virtually across the street from the Ellis Brothers shopping centre on the St. Peter's Road just outside Charlottetown.

A program of selecting foxes for show and breeding purposes will be carried out as an educational feature. They are due to leave this ranch at 2.30.

The next stop is at Morell where the breeders will inspect the Prince Edward Island Fur Farm Mink Ranch. Arrival is scheduled for 3.30 p.m.

An important reminder is to ask all persons to use the disinfectant provided on entering the gate of this ranch.

TOUR OF RANCH

The tour of the ranch will be conducted by the KOK, ranch manager, and it will include a look at the sheds, the pens, the new type equipment and the feed rations, among other things.

At four o'clock there is scheduled a demonstration of fur priming, fur grading and judging, to include a discussion of any points of interest that may arise.

A half hour later demonstrations will be given in skinning, fleshing, and setting by E.F. Blain who is the chief marketing fieldman for Canada Mink Breeders.

The evening program gets underway with a hot turkey dinner at the Charlottetown Hotel and the charge is low, as the fur breeders association is paying the balance of the costs out of its funds.

Mr. Mill will speak in his capacity as president; Lloyd Lockerby, Hamilton, will discuss market trends on fox and mink skins. Mr. Blain will discuss group marketing, group lotting and a mink pelting film will be shown.

Lowell Hancock, Summerside will show slides and give a report on his trip to Europe last year when he was president of the Canada Mink Breeders organization.

Clayton also reminded me that the dates have been set for the 35th anniversary live fox show at Charlottetown, and the 17th annual mink show. The dates are November 8th to November 11th, and Secraetry Claude A. Paynter is working on making it a really big anniversary performance with a number of new and interesting competitions and prizes added.

Short Downswing Seen Possible

VANCOUVER (CP) — Walter Gordon, former Liberal finance minister, says there is a possibility of a downswing in the Canadian economy next year.

"For that reason," he told a news conference here, "I don't think we should be stampeded into restrictive measures to control inflation.

"In any event, I don't think there will be a long economic slump if there is one."

Early Reaction Favorable To Bennett Overtime Ban

VANCOUVER (CP) — Premier W. A. C. Bennett has ordered a cutback in government spending as industry, labor and politicians study his government's ban on overtime for the British Columbia labor force. Most initial reaction to the overtime ban was favorable.

The Social Credit premier said in an interview in Victoria before leaving on a two-week trip to Europe that government over-spending contributes as much to inflation as high wages and profits. He also wanted to show leadership in fighting off a possible recession.

"Accordingly, there will be curtailed government spending, with balanced budgets and surpluses, and we are going to curtail government contracts wherever possible," Mr. Bennett said.

He said there will be a period when no highway or bridge contracts will be let and public works building projects will be held up. Only essential health service projects will be undertaken.

Mr. Bennett announced Wednesday that government employees and employees of Crown corporations are not to work overtime, future contracts with the government are to be free of overtime clauses, no more overtime permits will be issued to industry and current ones will not be renewed.

He said he is not opposed to wages going up. But they must be in line with productivity and the cost of living.

STATEMENTS CLASH

The government's no-overtime edict appeared to clash with a statement from Dr. Hugh Keenleyside, co-chairman of B.C. Hydro, which said the ban won't be applied to the Columbia River dams and Peace River power project.

Dr. Keenleyside said the province has an obligation under the Columbia River treaty, even if it means overtime.

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If additional articles are required list on separate sheet giving details as above.

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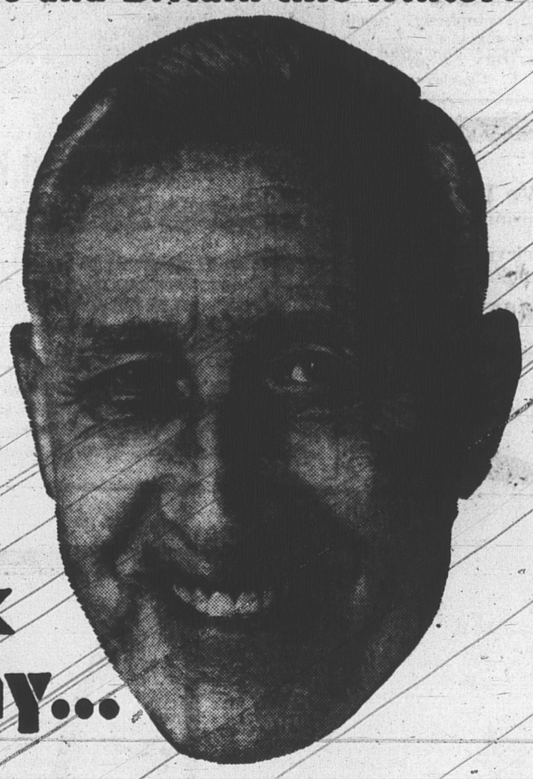

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