

### TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming

An offering of 2,985 silver fox was 26 per cent sold at an average price of \$5.30 (77.32) at the Nordic Fur Auction held in Stockholm a week ago. Top price was 130 kroner (\$18.20) for one-quarter silver. Buyers from Italy, Germany and France attended the sale but demand was rather dull and clearance unsatisfactory. Full silvers averaged slightly less than \$7.00; five-sixths silvers, \$7.90; three-quarter silvers, \$9.80; one-half and one-quarter \$11.15 and brought best prices. Demand was somewhat better for an offering of blue and platinum fox. A total of 2,097 blue fox was 45 per cent sold at an average of \$9.80. Extra light blue fox averaged \$10.50 with a top of \$14. A total of 2,142 platinum was sold at an average of \$12.50 and a top of \$19.70.

The T. E. Eaton Co., Ltd., of Montreal featured a variety of platinum mink in their store last week. They were in split-skin small pieces priced at \$399. Seven styles were offered including

coachman cape stole, portrait cape, clutch cape, portrait stole, sweetheart wrap, and Coesack's wrap.

At the EMBA meeting held in the Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, last week the members were told that 860,200 pelts had been sold to date at an average price of \$26.00. That leaves 496,070 unsold. These are Association pelts only and do not include Independent pelts. The Association started in 1944 with 26 members and now has 3,500 members. In 1944 it sold 2,250 pelts and it is estimated that 1,300,000 will be sold in 1954 at an aggregate price of \$25 million. Harris W. Reed, who attended a meeting of International Fur breeders here some years ago and is chairman of the advertising committee, stated that \$250,000 had been appropriated for advertising, which is an increase of \$50,000 over last year.

Another new fox type making its spring debut along with Nor-Chilla at B. Wollman & Bros., Inc., is Woll-Glo (trademarked).

Exclusive with the firm, it is silver fox newly blended into a burnished bronze shade with silver top hair. First of the new designs now in the working stage in Woll-Glo fox is an original shoulder piece cleverly arranged with French soft heads, one at each shoulder, two at front closing. At the same time Nor-Chilla fox is initially being shown in a very new looking model featuring the shoulder-bearing "smiling neckline".

Fashioned all in one, it slips over the head circling shoulders in broad, squared outline. Soft chiffon bow is used as contrasting ornament at center front. It is a direct continuation of the lining left loose at top so that it can be worn draped over the shoulders if desired. Characteristic of this piece, as well as every other fox fashion here, is the detailed let-out working of skins done in the same manner as with mink. In this particular case it gives the illusion of a wide, one-skin shoulder piece to what is in reality a double-tiered one.

At the Western Canada Raw Fur Auction Sales held in Vancouver last week dark ranch mink advanced 10 per cent while mutations and wild mink were unchanged compared to the former sale. Ninety per cent of the 20,000 dark ranch mink was sold with extra large and large in better colors bringing \$28 to \$35; dark brown in good sizes, \$24 to \$26.50 and smaller sizes \$16 to \$23; females in better types, and good colors ranged from \$13 to \$16 with secondary types from \$10.50 to \$13. In mutations, 4,000 platinums were 80 per cent sold with better colored males at \$24 to \$30, females \$14 to \$17. Some 9,000 pastels were 75 per cent sold. Males, light to medium colors brought \$35 to \$41; darker types in better sizes, \$28 to \$34; females brought \$14 to \$18. Half of the 30,000 muskrats were sold. Yukon stoats, large, \$1.25 to \$1.35.

In the last issue of National Fur News, Denver, Colorado, is a picture of a consignment of mink with the following by Editor "Doc" Collins: "Fly Away, Little Minks." "This is a picture of part of an American mink rancher's shipment of 185 seven-month-old Sapphires to Denmark. Remember it well. In a year or two the offspring of these mink will come flying back—in the form of pelts—to compete with your pelts. Last month a shipment of 1,616 mink valued at \$85,000 took off from Bradley Field, Conn., for Norway. Within the past year Sweden and Finland have also received sizable shipments of choice mink breeding stock from the U. S. This has been going on for perhaps 10 years. Why talk about locking the barn now, you might ask, after the horse has been stolen? The answer is, we have more than one horse.

"The mink rancher who sells breeding stock to our friends across the sea is wholly within his rights. He is helping to restore the purchasing power of nations who will, in turn, buy more U. S. goods. It is the sound doctrine, in action, of Trade Not Aid. But as every mink rancher in this country knows, selling breeding stock abroad is building competition against himself—at prices he cannot meet. The 1953 crop of mink in the four Scandinavian countries is estimated at about one million. Despite the drop in the production of Darks, the U. S. mink crop last year increased about 8 per cent. The world crop to be marketed in 1954 is in ex-

cess of 4½ million pelts. The bulk of these pelts will be aimed at the good old American dollar.

"Besides aiding overproduction, the sale of U. S. mink abroad is dramatically opposed to the efforts of the National Board to secure legislation placing a quota or tariff on mink pelt imports. To most Congressmen, this disunity probably looks like a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing. As an American citizen you're free to sell your mink breeders where you like. But

when those mink start coming back, don't go crying on anybody's shoulder about over-production and low pelt prices. Get this straight: Every time a plane-load of mink breeding stock flies out of this country, a big slice of our future prosperity flies along with them.

"Doc" Collins has given sound advice to the mink breeders of the United States, advice which, had it been given to our fox breeders—ourselves included—in the 1920's, would probably not have been followed but would have been abso-

lutely prophetic. Those who were in fox farming then will remember that we welcomed with open arms men from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Switzerland and other countries who came here to buy breeding stock. The Norwegian buyers were probably the shrewdest of them all. They picked the very best and in a few years they were producing excellent fox pelts and it was in that country that the first platinums were bred in the 1930's. When the Norwegians found out that their production was enough to supply

their needs and also to fill orders from nearby countries, their government in the fall of 1931 placed an embargo on the importation of stunning effect on many of us who had shipment orders with deposit money in the banks. Our own ranch lost a sale of some 18,000 and a newly formed ranch near Charlottetown suffered a very large loss—in fact a crippling one through that embargo. That fall the prices of fox pelts dropped to an average of around \$30.

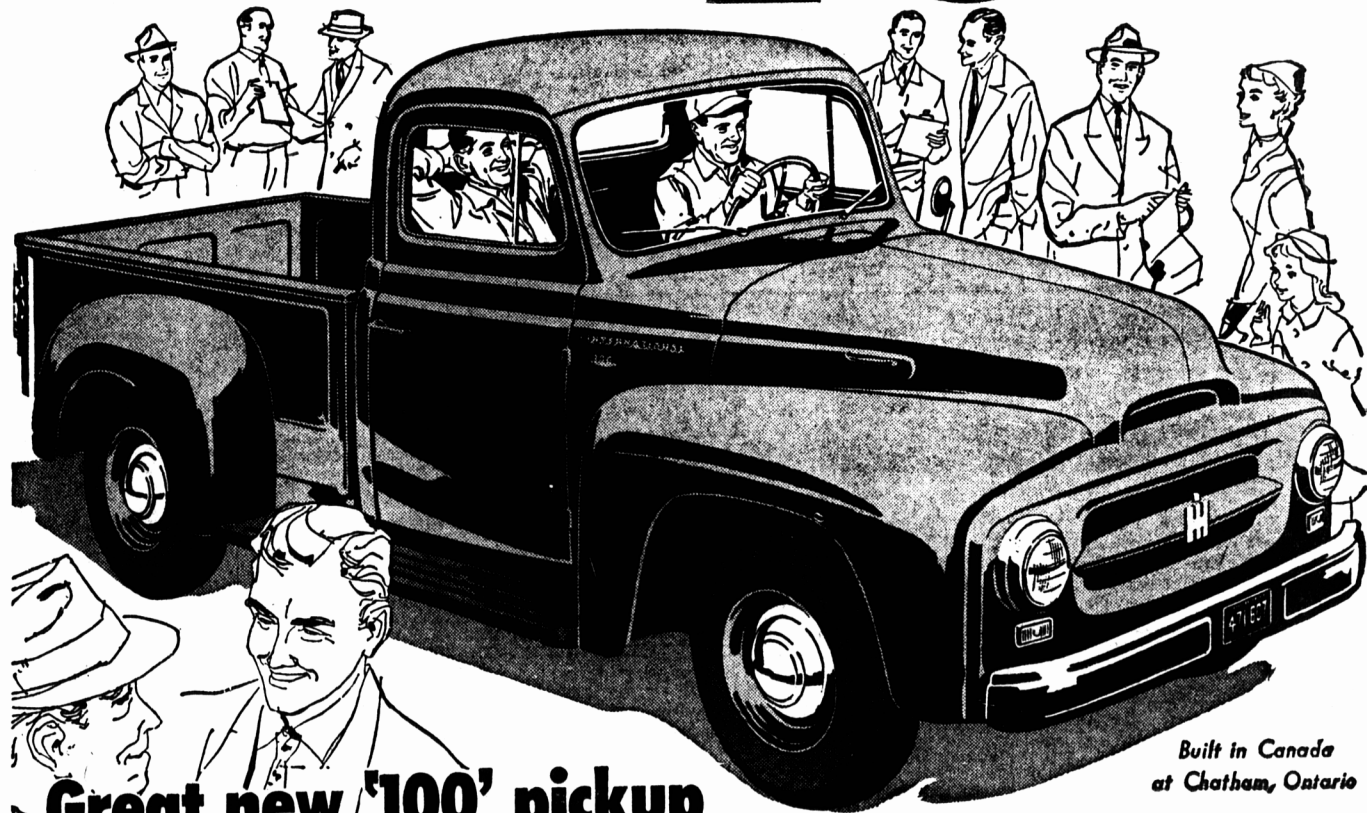
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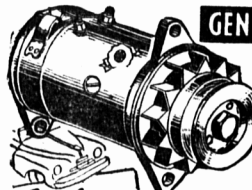


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| Chevrolet—1930-50        | 2.35 to 3.85 |
| Plymouth, Dodge—(most)   | 2.85 to 3.95 |
| Buick—1930-49            | 2.90 to 4.50 |
| Chrysler, DeSoto—1930-50 | 3.25 to 4.95 |
| Pontiac—1929-50          | 2.40 to 4.20 |



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| 1933-36 Master            | 4.45 |
| 1937-52 (most)            | 5.80 |
| Chry.. 1936-52 (most)     | 9.05 |
| DeSoto 1935-38 (most)     | 9.05 |
| 1939-52                   | 9.05 |
| Ford "A" (comp. size)     | 7.98 |
| Ford "V8" 1932-52         | 6.30 |
| Oldsmobile 1936-52 (most) | 7.98 |
| Plymouth (many models)    | 9.05 |

### TAIL and EXHAUST PIPES

|                      |      |      |
|----------------------|------|------|
| Chevrolet 1929-32    | 2.35 | 2.75 |
| 1933-52 (most)       | 2.90 | 3.45 |
| Dodge 1935-39 (most) | 4.95 | 4.40 |
| 1940-48              | 4.85 | 4.40 |
| 1949-52              | 4.25 | 3.85 |
| Ford V8 (most)       | 3.05 | 4.25 |
| Olds. & 1935-50      | 3.75 | 3.40 |
| Plymouth 1935-39     | 4.45 | 4.40 |
| 1940-52 (most)       | 5.80 | 4.30 |

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