

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming



An item in the American National Fur and Market Journal has the following:—A fox can run very fast when chased. A motorist has paced a large fox at 45 miles an hour. The fastest animal of all is the cheetah—or hunting leopard—used in India for running down black buck. Stop watch timing has proved its speed to be 70 miles per hour.

Veterinary Science, a journal published at the University of Wisconsin, claims that a large wild fox population is a luxury this country can ill afford. Rabbits, foxes and other wild animals biting dogs, live stock and human beings are a factor in the spreading of rabies in this country. Rabies losses among eastern Texas live stock alone amounted to a quarter of a million dollars last year. Dogs bitten by rabid foxes became spreaders of the disease. An outbreak of rabies among foxes travels slowly because the infected animals usually will not cross a water course.

Our comment on the above is that apparently rabies must be quite common in eastern and southern United States. We cannot remember of an outbreak in this country but there was a scare in 1930 which led to the placing of an embargo on the importation of foxes by Norway and Sweden. This made a bad blow to many of our fur farmers who had orders for large numbers of foxes from Norwegian breeders. In one case dealers stocked up to the extent of \$20 or \$30 thousand only to have to pelt the foxes two years later and receive prices of from \$25 to \$35 per skin.

Israel Kastbaum, veteran fur merchant of New York, recently returned home from a seven week trip to England, France, Italy and Germany and this is what he says: "The economic position since my last visit in 1949 is vastly improved and Europeans are absorbing lots of furs now." Asked about import restrictions and how they related to furs Mr. Kastbaum said they have been made more stringent recently. Long-haired furs are quite good both in France and Germany, but the principal item by far is Persian lamb. London is eager to buy furs, especially such popular priced items as marmot, squirrel, fox and muskrat, said the dealer, who while in Europe attended the winter fair auctions in London.

Recent reports of the Hudson's Bay Company auction and Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd., both of Montreal, confirm what Mr. Kastbaum has said, namely, that Europe is absorbing lots of furs. Had it not been for European buyers at sales in Montreal things would have been very flat indeed and silver fox would not have enjoyed the big sale or higher prices.

Thinking back to the years of long ago, London was our principal market and from 1927 to 1938 over a quarter of a million dollars worth of furs were marketed by

the Hudson's Bay Company auctions for McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Ltd. The two top years were 1936 and 1937 in which an aggregate of \$1,078,800 was realized net to the Company from sales made by the Hudson's Bay Company at auction in good old London. If the pound starts to go back to parity or near parity to buy furs we could certainly look for good days again in the fox industry.

In the March 20th issue of Women's Wear Daily there is a page with the heading—Fox Comes to the Fore in Prestige Promotions. There are illustrations and the ad states:—The revival of fox continues to gain momentum with more retail promotions appearing to endorse its prestige appeal. New designs and shapes, interesting taffeta treatments and color accents give something to talk about and retailers are going all out to point up this fashion news. Advertising the fur itself, the luxury quality of the fur itself, the fox... elegant fox... fashionable fox... these are the themes that crop up most frequently.

Bonwit Teller promotes the black fox stole at \$275, with "When fox is in fashion, there's nothing more fashionable. And it's the fur fashion this spring." Franklin Simon calls fox "the audaciously wonderfully sophisticated wiles... the new leading light of the 'little fur' fashion." Advertisers is a collection of stoles, capes and collars in natural blue or dyed black fox from \$79.50 to \$349. Also advertising fox is Bullocks Wilshire. He heralds the return of a "most glamorous fashion... richly elegant fox, graced by insets of matching taffeta," and features stoles at \$335 to \$415. Gunther and The Vogue of San Antonio also feature fox as fashion's new love in the long-haired fur.

To pep up the morale of some of our fox fur farmers who may have become a bit disheartened by the lack of interest in our commodity the past few years and its relegation to an inferior position compared with mink, we bring to our readers' attention a copy of an account of sales of a shipment of silver fox skins to C.M. Lamson & Co., London, England, by Charles Dalton, Tignish, P.E.I., sold in the April, 1910, auction:—1 skin \$540; 1 skin, \$530; 1 skin, \$500; 1 skin, \$440; 1 skin, \$430; 2 skins, \$420; 1 skin, \$370; 1 skin, \$340; 1 \$310; 1 at \$280; 2 at \$280; 2 at \$250 and several others at lower prices. The 24 skins realized \$6881 or an average of \$1,340.41 per skin. The top price of \$540, which was over \$2,500 net, was the highest prize ever realized by a silver fox pelt at auction and information afterwards received about that particular skin is that it eventually found its way to Austria at a price of over \$3,000.

It was on the basis of the prices received for this shipment of furs and news that leaked out from members of the "Family Compact" who were holding "light-lipped" to the fabulous profits they were making in silver fox farming, that caused the boom in live fox sales in succeeding years. Every prospectus referred to this extraordinary sale of pelts and there is no question but that it was a real stunner to most people who thought silver fox pelts were good but not much better than a good red fox. As we look back on those days we can remember the awe—and might almost say veneration—with which the giants of the new industry were regarded whenever they made their appearance.

When Charles Dalton or B. I. Rayner came to Charlottetown the news quickly spread and we were all interested in getting a look at them to see if they differed from the rest of us. B. I. of course had a wonderful diamond that everybody talked about, but Mr. Dalton did not affect anything like that. All eyes when he appeared cutting capers in the arena rink. Frank Tuplin at the date we refer to, 1910—was watching with great interest a number of litters of young foxes which had arrived and were being carefully attended. That fall he sold ten pairs to a syndicate for a reported price of \$65,000 and that broke the Family Compact and the next year live foxes were being sold more freely.

Report Of Canadian Extension Boys' And Girls' Club Work Meetings Held In Winnipeg

Report submitted to Department of Agriculture by Miss Maylea Boswell, of Women's Institutes, who represented Prince Edward Island at the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Boys' and Girls' Club Work as well as the annual meeting of the Canadian Agricultural Extension Association held in Winnipeg.

"I enjoyed my trip from start to finish and I consider it a great privilege to have been able to sit in on these meetings and benefit by the very valuable discussions which took place there. "One of the most interesting features of my trip were visits (arranged by Manitoba Department of Agriculture) when we were taken out to different farms which had suffered severely from last year's flood. Just to talk with these farmers who had lost so much both financially and otherwise, one could not help but be impressed with their spirit of perseverance. One farmer who had a herd of 75 purebred Shorthorn cattle told me he saved these cattle by loading them on a large and ferrying them to box cars which were on high ground. Here he visited them every day by boat and kept them fed. Many others lost the greater part of their herds. You have to see this country to fully realize what the flood did to it and the amazing comeback which they are making. It was also interesting to note in spite of the fact that it was 25 degrees below when I arrived in Winnipeg that along the route both cattle and horses were out doors feeding from stacks. This, no doubt, must cut down greatly their cost of production. "The Maritime delegates arrived on Monday morning, March 19th. The first meeting I attended was the Committee on Girls' Work which lasted Monday morning, afternoon and evening. "Mr. F.E. Wolf spoke briefly on competition. He told us our program was largely a matter of competition among supervisors rather than among Club Girls and that some teams were getting entirely too much assistance from their supervisors.

"To emphasize the fact that the work was too competitive, it was suggested that girls be interviewed as a team rather than as individuals. This would save time. That the period of time allotted for demonstrations be reduced from 10 to 8 minutes, thus allowing girls two minutes to set up their equipment. "During the evening we enjoyed an interesting talk on Recreation by Miss Stewart, Dept. of Physical Fitness, and took part in some of her new games, for club members. "On Tuesday the annual meeting was held, which lasted all day. The new executive of Canadian Council of Boys' and Girls' Club Work: Past President, Mr. Stanley Wood, N.B.; president, Miss Echo Lidster, C.C.; vice-president, Mrs. Stewart Wright, P.E.I.; secretary, Mr. A. E. McLaren, Ottawa, Ont. "On Wednesday, March 7th, the Home Economics section of the Canadian Extension Association met in the new Home Economics building at University of Manitoba. The chairman of this meeting was Miss Frances MacKay. Following the reading of the minutes a discussion took place on record books, really called project books. The majority felt that all Junior Club members, Junior Farmers' members, Women's Institute members should keep records of their year's work of all extension courses attended, given by the Department of Agriculture. These could be shown at Achievement Days, County Fairs, etc., and kept for future references.

"Miss Jean Munro, Nova Scotia, lead a discussion on "The Training of Leaders." Her definition for a Leader is someone who can place himself in a position where others can work with them. Essential Qualifications for a Leader 1. Sincere interest in people. 2. Liked by the group and respected in her community. 3. Able to sense of humour. 4. Be able to plan work ahead. 5. Perseverance. 6. Know the subject matter. 7. A Leader must be willing to accept help. 8. She must be honest, unselfish, good co-operator. "These are all good ideas I think for our Leadership Training Course which we are hoping to have next summer. "Where do you think we should begin training leaders? Begin with our younger people, actually work with both.

"Some discussions followed on the different methods each province have for training leaders. General impression was it is time we began working more together, men and women. We should try working closer with our Departments of Agriculture in both junior and senior. "Recognition of leaders. On Achievement Days give them a ribbon to signify the fact they are leaders. Ontario Department of Agriculture takes approximately 800 leaders each year to the Royal Winter Fair. Not enough being done for our leaders general impression. Miss Helen McKecher, Ontario, led a discussion on Fairs, including Directions for Judges and Directors, and the C.H.E.A. Extension Committee Standards for Judging."

"As chairman of the Extension Education Committee for the C.H.E.A. (on which I have been representing Prince Edward Island), she presented a book on scores for cooking and clothing for the use of judges at Fairs. "There was some discussion on the marking of exhibits. 1. General appearance 30; 2. Texture and Quality 30; 3. Flavour 40. The majority seem to think General Appearance was just as important

as Texture and Quality. There will be no change in these scores for five years. Find out the number needed. Give to Judges, Exhibitors, all members of the C.H.E.A. "School for Judges in Ontario. "Several women were asked to bring in garments for practice on judging. Usually 2-day courses. "One devoted to Standards of Judging. "One devoted to Practical Judging. Clothing Selection. "They also had an Institute supply cooking for judging purposes. Slides were also used. "Actually we don't have this situation on Prince Edward Island because we have only three County Fairs and we do the judging ourselves. There would be more uniformity if they had a school for judges, everyone felt. Scores for handicrafts should be lined up by the Canadian Handicraft Guild.

Method for Means of Evaluation Objective: Home Beautification. People to be reached. Methods used: Radio; newspaper. Results expected. Evidence of success. "This method could be followed for other projects. "What are the purposes and aims of Extension Work among rural women and girls? Discussion led by Alice Stevens, Saskatchewan. 1. To help develop skills in knowledge of attitudes toward home-making and agriculture. 2. Provide opportunities for people to take part because through participations we develop the individual. Provides opportunities for participation with other people. 3. We have a broader knowledge in general. "A good extension program would be one that is aimed more at human values than at material values. "Example—The calf not the boy, the demonstration not the girl (feeling at National but vice versa at Provincial). New President of C.H.E.A.: Alice Stevens, Sask. History of Home Economics: Anna Lewis, Sask. Committees of 1951: 52. Leadership: Helen McKecher, Ontario. Evaluation: Glenora Pierce, Sask. "An excellent tour of the Home Economics Building was arranged by Dr. Hood, Director of Home Economics for University of Manitoba. We had dinner in the University dining room. "On Thursday, March 8th, a joint session was held. After the business session, Professor A.S.R. Tweedle, Director of the University of Extension Programme, spoke on the "Observations on In Service Training." Following this Mr. J. G. Rayner, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and Mr. E. F. Pineau of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, led a discussion on "The Place of Agricultural Fairs in the Extension Program." Mr. Rayner referred to his province and their set-up mainly. He is led to believe they have too many fairs. Mr. Pineau, after visiting a large number of fairs the past year, seemed very much impressed with them, and was of the opinion that these fairs should definitely be carried on. "Miss Frances MacKay, Director of Women's Work in Manitoba, followed with the report of the Home Economics Section. "The afternoon session opened with a discussion led by Stanley Wood of New Brunswick on Agriculture and Home Economics in the province and their set-up mainly. He is led to believe they have too many fairs. Mr. Pineau, after visiting a large number of fairs the past year, seemed very much impressed with them, and was of the opinion that these fairs should definitely be carried on. "Miss Frances MacKay, Director of Women's Work in Manitoba, followed with the report of the Home Economics Section. "The afternoon session opened with a discussion led by Stanley Wood of New Brunswick on Agriculture and Home Economics in the province and their set-up mainly. He is led to believe they have too many fairs. Mr. Pineau, after visiting a large number of fairs the past year, seemed very much impressed with them, and was of the opinion that these fairs should definitely be carried on. "Miss Frances MacKay, Director of Women's Work in Manitoba, followed with the report of the Home Economics Section.

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- NEWSY NOTES -

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

Pasture Improvement

Pastures have always been highly valued by our farmers, but it has only been in comparatively recent years that the real nutritive value of young growing grasses and clovers has been known. We have devised all kinds of substitutes for pastures and grazing, but for the economic production of live stock and live stock products, no preparation or combination of feeds has ever excelled the rapid growing pasture of mixed grasses and clovers during the spring months.

Rotational Pastures

The majority of Prince Edward Island farms have pasture as part of the farm rotation. It may be of one, two or three years duration. When the land is only in pasture for these short periods, many of the more valuable pasture grasses and clovers do not have time to become well established. Timothy, alsike, red clover and natural grasses are usually the more common sorts present. This type of pasture can be greatly improved by applying a top dressing of barnyard manure following the removal of the previous hay crop. Where the stand of forage plants is thin, the pasture can be improved by applying grass and clover seed to these areas very early in the spring. Then just as soon as the grass is firm enough to carry the equipment, the hay and pasture fields should be rolled to press down the plants that have been lifted by frost, to give them a better contact with the soil.

Semi-Permanent Pastures

Many farms in the central and southern districts of the province have fields or areas that are hilly and subject to soil erosion if cultivated. Many other fields that are well watered and suitable for pasture should be left out to grass for years so that the better pasture grasses and clovers may become well established. These fields, if prepared, a good seed bed prepared, and can prove to be the most valuable and productive areas on the farm. A great number of farmers at Illustration Station field days, have seen the result of such work on the very hilly section of the farm of Mr. William E. Johnston and Son, at Long River, P. E. Island. Their permanent or semi-permanent pasture has provided abundant succulent forage for two or more head of stock per acre during the spring months and good pasture for two animals per acre throughout the summer. This area, which was formerly subject to both sheet and gully erosion, of about twenty acres of steep hillside has now been in pasture for more than twenty years. During the summer of 1950 there were about 47 head of mature cattle on it for five months and yet it had to be mown more than once to keep the grasses from maturing.

Improvement Methods

The average farm should have at least one acre of pasture per cow. The cost of pasture improvement is not great. Barnyard manure is the best pasture fertilizer. Once well started, the area, which was formerly subject to both sheet and gully erosion, of about twenty acres of steep hillside has now been in pasture for more than twenty years. During the summer of 1950 there were about 47 head of mature cattle on it for five months and yet it had to be mown more than once to keep the grasses from maturing.

Mortgage Sale

There will be sold at Public Auction in front of the Law Courts Building in Charlottetown in Queen's County on Wednesday the eleventh day of April, A. D., 1951 at the hour of twelve o'clock noon, ALL THAT TRACT, piece or parcel of Land situate lying and being at Crapaud in Queen's County in Prince Edward Island, bounded and described as follows, that is to say:—BOUNDED on the North by the McDonald Road and the Sherren Stream, on the east by land formerly in possession of Alonzo Trowsdale, now in possession of Louis Myron, on the Southeast by the Crapaud Road, on the South by property in possession of the said David Sherren, containing twenty acres of land a little more or less together with all water, water rights and water privileges and buildings situated thereon.

The above sale will be made under, by virtue of and pursuant to a Power of Sale contained in a certain indenture of Mortgage bearing date the fourteenth day of September, A. D. 1949 and made between Murdock Stewart of Crapaud in Queen's County in Prince Edward Island, Miller, and Virtine Stewart, wife of the said Murdock Stewart, of the first part, and Leander S. Reid of Hope River in Queen's County aforesaid, Farmer, of the second part, and because of default having been made in the payment of the interest money thereby secured. For further particulars apply to Trainor & O'Donnell, Solicitors etc., Charlottetown. Dated this eighth day of March, A. D. 1951. LEANDER S. REID, Mortgagee.

of year but when I arrived back in the Maritimes I felt I was in Florida. I am quite convinced we have here as nice a province as there is in Canada. "He also gave us some good points to remember in the preparation and delivering of radio broadcasts. A demonstration of Visual Aids was given by T. Armstrong. The evening meeting was devoted to the revising of the Constitution for the Canadian Extension Association. One of the most enjoyable parts of the trip was my visit to Miss Mary Robin's home in Robbins, Manitoba, where I visited a real western farm and enjoyed hospitality that couldn't be beaten even on Prince Edward Island. "Summing up I would like to say I enjoyed my trip to Western Canada, but I would like to emphasize the fact that I was very glad to return to Prince Edward Island. Perhaps I ran into some exceptionally cold weather for that time

grasses as phosphorus, but the best way to obtain it is through securing an abundant growth of wild white clover. Where lime is required, as shown by a P. H. value of less than 5.5, it can be applied in the form of ground limestone, to create conditions favorable to the growth of red clover.

Clovers

Prince Edward Island farmers are very fortunate in the fact that wild white clover is indigenous and wherever conditions are made right, then it will appear in abundance. Its presence with the best pasture grasses not only improves the value of the forage for the stock, but it stimulates the growth of the grasses in the years that follow, and seems to help prevent winter injury to our permanent pastures. Red clover, alsike and ladino clovers all have their place in pastures but wild white clover should be the king pin. Professor Johnson-Wallace of Cornell, claimed that where there was wild white clover there were about four times as many earth worms, and when there are less than one plant of wild white clover per square yard the pasture should be broken and reseeded.

Pasture Management

Pastures should be grazed as soon as the growth is about three inches high and the ground is firm enough to carry stock. Pastures should be stocked sufficiently heavy to prevent the herbage from exceeding an average of four inches in height at any time. Alternate grazing which means dividing the pasture into two or three parts so that one part is being grazed, by the stock, while the other is being renewed, is recommended. Whenever a pasture shows signs of getting ahead of the cattle and grass seed stalks appear, as during the peak period of growth in June, it should be mown. For these cuttings, raise the cutting bar of the hay mow or at least three inches above the ground. When there is not sufficient stock to keep the field grazed down it may be necessary to mow the pasture more than once during the season. The most important point in pasture management is in connection with the autumn treatment. Close grazing should cease in September. The stock should be removed sufficiently early so that there will be a sturdy growth of about three inches of grass before winter.

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P.E.I. Farm Income Up Last Year, Figures Show

OTTAWA, March 30—(CP)—The Bureau of Statistics yesterday told the Canadian farmer something he probably already knew—that on the whole he made less money in 1950 than in the peak year of 1949. The bureau reported estimated national cash income of farmers from sale of farm products in Canada at \$2,223,500,000 in 1950, down 10.9 per cent from the all-time high of \$2,494,800,000 in 1949. Newfoundland was not included in the calculations.

Prince Edward Island farm income showed an increase, however, being more than two million dollars above the 1949 figure. Actually, the bureau said, only farmers on the Prairies made less, but the figure for the three Prairie Provinces was down sufficiently to drag down the national average. "This, said the bureau, was largely attributable to a drop in the cash receipts from the sale of grains and substantially smaller grain equalization and adjustment payments." In 1949 Prairie farmers got approximately \$200,000,000 in participation and equalization payments. Last year they got \$50,000,000. "The value of the farmer's land was increasing, the bureau said. Occupied farm land in Canada, not including Newfoundland, had an average value of \$43 an acre in 1950, a gain of \$3 an acre over 1949. That was \$19 higher than the average for 1939-50. Going back to farm income, the bureau reported cash income from sale of grains, seed and hay decreased to \$563,943,000 in 1950 from \$895,675,000 in 1949. Wheat accounted for \$380,423,000 of the total compared with \$470,226,000 in 1949. Income from sale of vegetables and other field crops was \$163,831,000 compared with \$154,914,000; livestock \$895,947,000 compared with \$829,044,000; dairy products \$377,742,000 compared with \$351,955,000 and fruits \$40,621,000 compared with \$43,936,000. "The bureau estimates of cash income in Ontario was \$679,400,000 compared with \$678,000,000 followed by Saskatchewan with \$407,600,000 compared with \$560,700,000. Farm income for other provinces with 1949 figures in brackets were: Alberta \$368,800,000 (\$460,300,000); Quebec \$361,600,000 (\$349,400,000); Manitoba \$196,000,000 (\$242,800,000); British Columbia \$101,200,000 (\$101,200,000); New Brunswick \$46,700,000 (\$44,900,000); Nova Scotia \$39,600,000 (\$38,600,000); Prince Edward Island \$22,100,000 (\$20,900,000).

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1. So. Am. republic 6. Outcast class (Jap.) 9. Silver coin (Dutch) 10. Girl at co-educational school 12. Position 13. Shape, as metal 14. Extinct, flightless bird 15. Egyptian god 17. Water god (Ezbyl) 18. Part of "to be" 19. Native of Arizona 21. Account book 23. Equips with men 24. Moslem title 25. Servant (Swab) 26. Not sweet 28. Slings materials 31. Array for battle 33. Neuter pronoun 34. Hebrew letter 35. Contender for (Ezbyl) 36. Keel-billed cuckoo 37. Masculine name 39. Impel onward 40. Manor court (Eng. Hist.) 41. Decorations of rank

43. Elevation (golf) 44. Ponder DOWN 1. Subordinate part of a sentence 2. Sound, as a horn 3. Measure (Chin.) 5. Half an acre 6. To practice saving 7. High, craggy hill 8. A sea, an arm of the Mediterranean 9. Feeble 11. University officers 13. Turkish cap 15. Region 16. Russian village 19. Intensity 20. Back of the neck 22. Painfully sloping 25. Coat thinly with gold 26. Leaf of flower calyx 27. A dish of eggs 28. Saine (abbr.) 29. Encircled

Yesterday's Answer 30. Pig pens 32. Metal 33. Jason's ship 38. Honey gathering insect 39. Shrub (Jap.) 41. Size of shot 42. Land measure

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it: A X Y D L B A A X R is LONG FELLOW One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation ORL YLDO GIZO UK YLIHOC TD ORIO BRNR I GTNOHZL NISSUO LQ GZLD—YINUS Yesterday's Cryptogram: THE LITTLE MERIT MAN CAN PLEAD IN DOING WELL, DEPENDETH STILL UPON HIS POWER OF DOING ILL.—CHURCHILL.

Mr. Farmer

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CHANGE IN PARTNERSHIP Mr. Wilbur Andrew has succeeded Mr. Byron Bowness in the partnership of the firm of MacEachern and Bowness, Massey-Harris Dealers, Charlottetown. The firm will henceforth be known under the name ANDREW & MacEACHERN

Mr. Bowness will continue his association with the new partners in the firm, lending his valued advice and assistance in the carrying on of the business. The new partnership will welcome both old and new customers and provide prompt attention to all requirements. ANDREW & MacEACHERN Dealers in Massey-Harris Farm Equipment KENT ST. PHONE 10

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