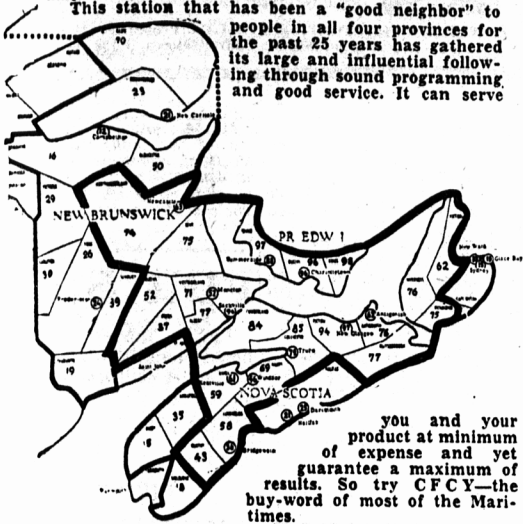


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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Good news for mink ranches is found in an article which appeared in Women's Wear Daily recently, written by Sam Gottesfeld. He estimates that at present between 70 and 75 per cent of the United States mink crop and 80 to 70 per cent of the standard ranch mink crop has been marketed. In that opinion he is backed up by officials of the New York Auction Co., Lamson, Fraser & Huth and other mink marketing experts. There will be no important mink offerings by these auction houses during March. The next sales are scheduled to be in April and indications are that there are still some top quality mutation mink remaining to be offered.

Thus far in the season the turnover of mink pelts at auction has been outstandingly high and it is generally conceded that the quantities of mink offered have probably been marketed more quickly than ever before. The trade at large has demonstrated what to some is an amazing ability to absorb the pelts and levels have held firm or climbed to as much as 20 per cent on medium bracket Sapphires (Ceruleans). The early rapid marketing of large quantities of mink was indicative, auction house sources said, of ranchers desire to unload quickly because they saw in the decline of other commodities the possibility of a similar decline in mink levels. With this unusually rapid marketing of the mink crop many of the dealers felt there would inevitably be a decline in price levels because they felt the trade was financially and physically unable to absorb such great quantities in so short a period.

However, certain developments have contributed to the strength of the mink market. Established purchasers of mink have had to face the competition of foreign buying, and of the entry into the mink field of many dealers and makers who have hitherto not handled the item, as well as of increasing numbers of new firms. Europe, too, has all season been displaying a greater interest in mink. The Scandinavian crop is now said to be all but cleaned out and in the United States European buyers have increased their purchases at auction over previous years. In addition to standard mutations of all types including Sapphires, one auction house source pointed out where some Americans have shown a bit of reluctance in purchasing smaller size pelts of finer texture, Europeans have stepped in and paid strong prices for the merchandise.

Another factor, of course, and one of equal, if not more, importance than European participation, has been the increase in the number of firms handling mink at the pelting and manufacturing levels. Various other factors could be quoted to show why mink has been so strong this year and one of these is the report of the dressers. One dressing house spokesman estimated that the dressers as a group have added over 400 new customers. Statistics aside, the consensus is that the ranks of mink market sources has swelled substantially, and the outlook which at first appeared not so optimistic is clearly good.

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Bonus on Guernsey Females

The Prince Edward Island Guernsey Breeders Association will pay bonuses up to fifty dollars on females purchased by a new breeder, provided that he has not more than four females including the animal or animals on which he is requesting the bonus. To be eligible for the bonus the animal must pass inspection and conform to certain standards. For details contact
NEIL A. MATHESON, Association Secretary, care of Patriot Office, Charlottetown.

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.
SPONGES

Sponges (Porifera), these are a class of animals with a type of structure that is simpler than that of any other Metazoa, or multicellular form. The body of a sponge is not differentiated into organs and its tissues appear as if only in the making. They are almost all marine and occur from shallow depths near shore to great depths in the ocean. They multiply by cell division and also by sexual reproduction. In the latter case the young has a short free swimming period, when the cells have cilia and move away from the area of the mother sponge; to attach themselves to rocks, seaweed or other animals.

When the Asceffa, a very simple sponge, is examined a small vase-like body can be seen, fixed at its base but open at the apex. Microscopically examined a layer of ciliated cells are seen within the vase and a delicate external skin and within these a central stratum in which lie numerous needles of lime that form a supporting skeleton. There are numerous fine canals through these walls and water flowing in through them carry the waste products and particles of organic debris that form its food. These are caught by the ciliated cells; these like so many of the Monads, swallow their food first and digest it intercellularly afterwards. The flowing water carries the oxygen necessary for digestion and respiration; it washes the cells and passes out the exhalant apertures, of the vase.

Sponges have many other small animals associated with them, these play hide-and-seek among the sponges and use them partly for shelter and for catching their own food supply. There are a number of the Buspongia species that are of economic importance. The trade in sponges is largely from those that come from the Levant and is carried on by Greeks, Sicilians and Tunisians and also from the West Indies and the coast of Florida by the sponge traders of the Bahama Islands. In 1910 the trade in sponges from Turkey and Greece amounted to about a half million dollars annually.

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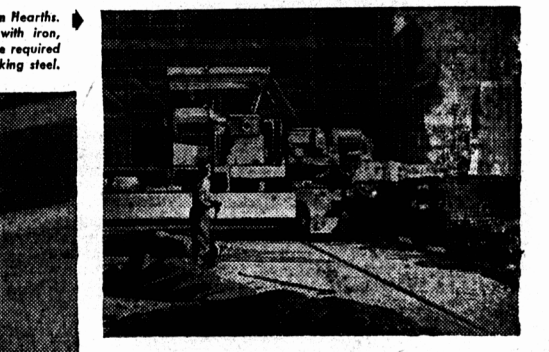
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of the many other uses in which a sponge may prove to be exceedingly efficient are: For cleaning mirrors, dishes, pots and pans, and the everyday cleaning of woodwork, floors and windows. It can be used for dampening clothes for ironing, and when used for dusting, it gathers up the dust instead of displacing it to settle somewhere else.



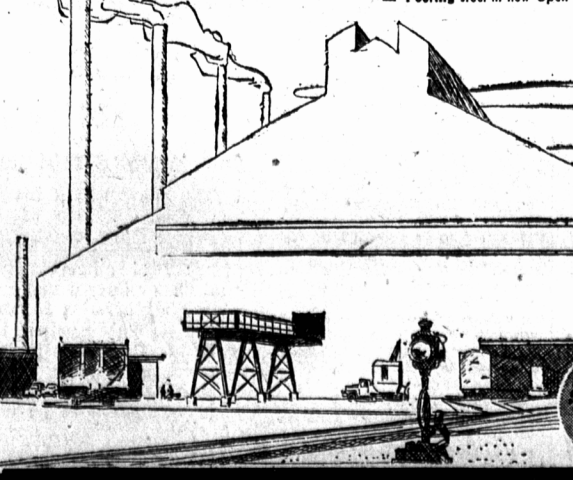
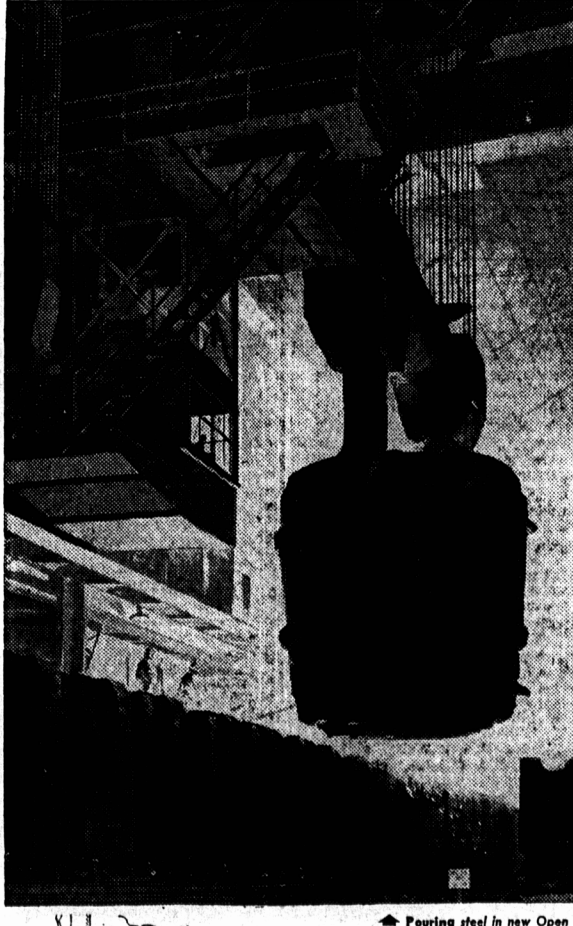
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