

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming

"Doc" Collins, Editor of the National Fur News, is a man with a long memory and a good business brain so that anything he writes can be considered pretty accurate. In the latest National Fur News he has an editorial entitled "Color Keeps the Sales Curve Up."

"According to the Statistical Department of the National Board, the average price of Dark mink was \$17.20 during 1940 at an average price of \$9.37. The 1940 crop averaged \$10.86. In 1942 Dark mink averaged \$7.91. Times were bad then in 1944, the first offering of Platinum hit the market, averaging for the year \$147.29. It should be remembered that, before inflation set in, costs of production were based on the old dollar, not the present 50-cent dollar. The average price for Platinum in 1945 dropped to \$79.75. Dark mink averaged \$24.05, highest so far recorded. But here came another color, the Pastel. Pastels averaged \$13.67. Kohinur and Blufrost were also introduced this year, averaging \$40.81 and \$40.76, respectively. These three new mutations jumped the average price in 1946 up to \$28.43. This is the high mark of the mink farming industry.

"Next year, 1947, pelt prices began a three-year-slice. Dumping of Russian furs were partly responsible, other causes were economic. Dark mink averaged only \$11.86 in 1949. Platinum were down to \$15.17. Kohinur and Blufrost sold for \$5 or \$6. Pastels dropped to \$24.45. The average for all pelts in 1949 was \$13.48. And inflation was taking a deeper and deeper bite out of everything we had to buy. Prices

of the heat-regulating mechanism. It is caused by prolonged exposure to excessive heat, either from the sun or from confinement in a close, hot place. Greatest losses occur at helping time, when kits are housed in unventilated nest boxes. This condition can result in, or be a contributing factor to, paratyphoid. When the females are whelping, or if the kits are only a few days old, the losses may be very high. The female is also affected by the heat, and because of this she may not take care of her kits. She may maul and drag them out of the wire floor of the pen, where they are killed by the direct rays of the sun, or from exposure, or they may fall through the wire and become lost. This results in the female's becoming very excited. When this happens she should be removed from the vicinity, as her actions unnerve other females nearby.

"If the female is whelping and the weather is excessively hot and humid with no air movements, there will be no symptoms of heat exhaustion to observe, since the young kits die rapidly. The female does not clean them properly and is in distress herself. She may be, as I observed on one ranch, in the entrance of the nest box, shutting off any air currents which might enter. The nest box then becomes like an oven and the kits are suffocated. Later in the season when the kits are older, the rancher may go out to the yard on a hot, humid day and find some of his kits dead and others affected. In this case, since the kits are older, typical symptoms can usually be observed. The older kits become quiet and stretch out on their sides. As the day advances and becomes hotter and more humid, they look around for shade and water. If a rancher reaches for a kit at this time, it may turn on its side and cry weakly in protest. It is quite an effort for it to raise its head as it cries. In severe cases they appear extremely nervous and in many instances bite at the wire.

Unfortunately, there isn't much one can do to help the individual kit at whelping. If the kits are older you can successfully revive them by dipping them in lukewarm water, NEVER IN COLD, as the shock is too great for their condition and after dipping them in lukewarm water, dry and place them in cool shade where there is free circulation of air. As a stimulant in the more advanced cases, place a drop or two of aromatic spirits of ammonia on the kits tongue. In order to reduce losses, the mink should be watered quite frequently during the day. There are cases known where they had to be watered ten times a day. In advanced cases affecting the older females, get water and freedom of air by all means. In one particular case of this type, the female was so far advanced that putting fresh water in her cup did not interest her because she did not have the energy to move. Water was administered to her by wiping her mouth with a damp cloth until she showed activity. A small piece of damp cloth was left on the female's head while aid was given other females in a similar condition.

The following are suggestions to succor the mink: If the yard is small, large lawn sprinklers are helpful in cooling the area. Overhead pipe sprinklers have to be used in the yards where large numbers of mink are confined. There is a very great disadvantage when the sprinkling system of cooling is used. None of the cold water should be allowed to fall on the young kits, as the sudden shock itself might kill them. Our mink ranchers might be well advised to clip the above suggestions. There is no telling when we may get some very hot weather in the coming month of May or June and "Be Prepared" is always a wise way to be.

The following has been received from Mr. W. Chester S. McLure, M. P. "Yesterday's auction sale of United States Government Alaska seal skins held in St. Louis showed some declines over the top prices of last year. The different colours are as follows: Martars averaged \$82.87; Safari averaged \$59.51; Black averaged \$100.62; Grand average of the sale \$85.32.

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc. SAN FRANCISCO

The various transportation companies offer many very fine tours about the city of San Francisco and the equally interesting nearby cities and the surrounding country. The Gray Line up their passenger and return them to all the leading hotels, railway terminals and ferries without extra charge. Their parlor, sight-seeing cars, have glass roofs and extra large windows. There was a guide with a loud-speaker, who was well briefed on the many places of interest, and who had a fund of very interesting stories about the different districts, the San Francisco earthquake and fire.

Market street which extends from near the Twin Peaks to the Oakland Ferry wharf, was the line of demarcation, where the fire was stopped and bisected the city from the south-west to the north-east. Practically one half of the city to the south and east of that line was destroyed. Today there are many of the city's finest buildings in this area and no trace of the disaster. We had arrived at the Stewart Hotel, 361 Geary street about 6 p.m. March 28th and were ready at 10 a.m. on the 26th to join Tour No. 1 which was a most comprehensive tour of the city of San Francisco lasting three hours. Some 28 other tours were listed; one of them lasting four days and including a visit to the Yosemite National Park.

The first stop on the tour was at the Mission Dolores which was founded in 1776. The original bells of the mission were still in use with their very harsh, cracked, tinny sound. We took a number of pictures while most of the passengers were inside looking over Canada Province of Prince Edward Island. In The Probate Court. The 27th day of March A.D., 1953. In Re Estate of Florence M. Goodwill late of Charlottetown in Queen's County in the said Province, Widow, deceased, testate. To the Sheriff of the County of Queen's County or any Constable or literate person within the County.

WHEREAS upon reading the petition on file of The Eastern Trust Company, Executor of the above named Estate, praying that a citation may be issued for the purpose hereinafter set forth: You are therefore hereby required to cite all persons interested in the said Estate to be and appear before the Judge present at a Probate Court to be held in the Court House in Charlottetown in Queen's County in the said Province, on Wednesday the 6th day of May next coming, at the hour of eleven o'clock forenoon of the same day to show cause if any they can; why the Accounts of the said Estate should not be passed and the Estate closed as prayed for in said petition and on motion of Kenneth M. Martin, Esquire, Proctor for said Petitioner. AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a true copy hereof be forthwith published in some newspaper published in Charlottetown aforesaid once a week for at least four consecutive weeks from the date hereof and that a true copy hereof be forthwith posted in the following public places respectively, namely, in the Hall of the Court House in Charlottetown aforesaid, at or near the Royal Bank of Canada Building in Charlottetown aforesaid and at or near the Bank of Nova Scotia Building in Charlottetown aforesaid, so that all persons interested in the said Estate as aforesaid may have due notice thereof. WITNESS His Honour Harold Leonard Palmer, Judge of the said Probate Court at Charlottetown in Queen's County, the day and year first above written. By the Court. (L.S.) (Sgd.) Frances B. Vinnicombe, Registrar

A small offering of 404 blue fox skins averaged \$4.64. The sale was well attended with very spirited bidding.

antiques and relics of Spanish origin. From there we wound round and round and up and up to the top of the Twin Peaks which dominate the San Francisco Peninsula. From these peaks there is a panoramic view of the entire city, the Pacific Ocean Coast line, from beyond the Golden Gate Bridge on the North, (the world's longest and highest single-span suspension bridge) to Half-moon Bay on the west, and from Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay to Mount Hamilton and its Lick Observatory on the south. To the north east stretching across the Bay is the famed San Francisco-Oakland Bridge, said to be the greatest bridge in the world which cost seventy seven million dollars before money lost its former value.

The trip took us through the exclusive St. Francis Wood and Sea Cliff areas where the gardens and lawns are taken care of on a community basis. Each owner pays his share and landscape and trained gardeners take care of the homes on continuous contracts. The lawns, flowers and flower shrubs were of the finest, with no sign of neglect anywhere. The bus circled several times about in the Golden Gate Park, with a stop at the Museum and the Stein-

hart aquarium, where a whole day could have been passed pleasantly, instead of a 30 minute rush. We were told that the area, which is about as large as one quarter of the city had been a series of sand dunes. These were levelled with bulldozers; the whole area covered with straw, then with good earth and planted by Mr. John MacLarin who was caretaker for over fifty years. The magnificent trees, shrubs and flowers secured from all corners of the earth are supplemented by a bronze statue as a commemoration for his great services to the city.

Near the entrance to the Golden Gate Harbour at Cliffhouse, hundreds of hair seals were lying about on rock islands or fishing in the water in full view of the people who lined the glass side of the overhanging cliffhouse. The glass was so free from defects, that very few would believe that there was glass there at all. In passing through the Presidio Military Reservation, many excellent views could be seen of the Golden Gate bridge, The Palace of Fine Arts and Fort Mason, but the guide asked that cameras be not used, as "they would be confiscated and he would be shot at dawn". He said: "he objected to getting up so early to be shot; there was no future in it, and he would rather be half-shot at eleven". The people of this great city are very friendly; they insist that San Francisco "is warm in winter, cool in summer and the sightseeing season lasts all year long."

FOR SALE: \$250 crop land for \$50 an acre! LOCATION: In your woods, bottom ground, washes! Do you have land that's practically worthless because of scrub growth, swamp, or washes? This farmer had a brush-filled ditch made 9 acres of land absolutely worthless. 10' deep, 20' wide, and 700' long, it covered 4 acres and cut off another 5 acres that couldn't be reached for farming. Today, this land is Grade A farmland. A "Caterpillar" Diesel Tractor with Bulldozer filled in the ditch. Cost? About \$50 an acre. Do you have gullies... trees... brush... swamps... that cut your crop acreages and production? Clean 'em up with a "Cat" Diesel Tractor! Dig out hedgerows... straighten creeks... level land... doze out trees.

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DAILY CROSSWORD. ACROSS: 1. Principal male character. 5. Flourish. 9. Burden. 10. Chest sound (anat.). 11. Internal decay. 12. Fruit. 13. French lyric form. 14. Tree. 15. To placard with notices. 16. Jackdaw. 17. Merriness. 18. Public notices. 19. Coin (Swed.). 21. A fraternity (slang). 22. One of the Hawaiian islands. 25. Cries, as a donkey. 26. Hurry. 27. Golf peg. 28. Mouths (anat.). 29. Signifies. 33. Negative reply. 34. Leap. 35. Rodent. 36. Mistakes. 38. Compassion. 39. Military assistant. 40. Sea eagle. 41. Girl. 42. Destruction. DOWN: 1. Exclamation meaning "Stop!". 2. Fox. 3. Wagon wheel unit (Den.) groove. 4. Bone (anat.). 5. Massive. 6. Rave. 7. Ancient. 8. Any day. 9. Wagon. 10. Sunday. 11. Plead. 12. Flower. 13. Endures. 15. Persian fairy. 18. Builder of the ark. 19. Constellation. 21. Stew. 22. Sanitary unit (Den.). 23. Like the dawn. 24. United States of America (abbr.). 25. Wages. 27. Spigota. 28. Customs (poss.). 30. Ireland. 31. Prices. 32. Pig pen. Yesterday's Answer: 14. Portable troughs for bricks. 17. Narrow inlet (geol.). 26. For. 40. Elevated train.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it! A X Y Z L B A A K X L O N G F E L L O W. 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: A Q S L S I L Q S Q M Q S B I L N P B I U Q O N Q F N I F J U N Q U N I N Q S B I - A ' S L J N U P S. Yesterday's Cryptogram: BY THE LIGHT OF THE MORN, WERE SEEN MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS—GOULD.

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