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-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

The International Locust Control Project

The International Locust Control Project was developed in recent years when crop losses in Africa and Asia threatened almost one-quarter of the people of the world with famine.

For they (the locusts) covered the face of the whole earth so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees, which the hail had left; and there remained not any green thing on the trees, or in the herbs of the field, throughout all the land of Egypt.

Iraq Locust Invasion of 1945 Shortly after World War II had ended and when thousands of date palms in Basra were ripening their fruit, and through Mesopotamia, in the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris, when the fields of golden grain were ready for harvest, great swarms of locusts struck.

This great disaster brought prompt assistance from many lands. It stirred legislators, not only the areas subject to raids from the Desert Locust, but in the British Commonwealth, the United States and elsewhere. Information acquired in comparatively recent times: That the Desert Locust swarms that migrate, originate from the solitary desert Grasshopper, when certain conditions favorable to its multiplication occur and that by organized effort these swarms may be destroyed or checked by attacking them with improved insecticides and methods

other designer uses Norwegian blue fox for an immense necktie that the mannequin twists twice around her shoulders. It is quite a striking effect. Gerry Archibald, President of the American Fur Breeder's Association, a Canadian of physical training at the Y.M.C.A. Charlottetown, has a letter in the National Fur News of which this is an extract. "An item that should prove of interest is the fact that my wife has just written me from Paris stating that—'Fox in all of the color phases is the featured fur in top fashion in the little fur shops in Paris. Stoles and caplets are the most popular items and hold the spotlight in all of the fur shops and salons.' She also states that there is much fox being worn. It makes me feel very good to have this direct although I had heard previous reports as to what was taking place, also the fact that a good percentage of the pelts which were sold in New York our last sale have gone to top Paris outlets."

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming

The Canadian Bureau of Statistics estimates that the 1952-1953 season yield of standard silver and new type fox pelts is expected to number 12,700 or 46.4 per cent below the 1952-1953 season take of 27,700. The harvest of standard and mutation mink pelts is expected to be 15.2 per cent higher at 623,200 against 541,200 last year. Anticipated production of standard silver fox pelts is 8,500 compared with 17,200 in 1952-1953, while the yield of new type fox pelts is expected to drop to 4,200 from 6,500. Standard mink pelts are also expected to be fewer this season at 1,200,000 against 1,500,000 last year, but this decline is expected to be outweighed by increased output. Daily we note reproduced photos put for other types of mink.

Platinum mink pelt production is estimated at 106,100 against 92,400—pastel mink pelt output at 117,100 against 64,900—and other mutation mink pelt production, 67,300 against 22,900 pelts. Number of adult foxes on farms at the beginning of this year is estimated at 7,900, a drop of 37.8 per cent from the 12,700 on farms as the start of 1952. During the same period adult mink on farms increased by 30.4 per cent to 308,500 from 236,600 a year earlier. Number of fox pups raised in 1953 is estimated at 11,300, a decrease of 42.6 per cent from 19,700 in 1952. The number of mink kits raised this year is placed at 663,400, a gain of 17 per cent over last year's 567,000.

In the latest Women's Wear from Paris of a lady wearing a Norwegian blue fox on a fur-lined jacket of a grey suit, but the bands of fur are loose so they may be draped around the shoulders. An-

gles, risked capture to report hoppers, eggs or swarms seen. In the towns, storekeepers, taxi drivers and children brought insects to the agricultural officer, and told where they found them.

Operation Locusts A supervisor of a Desert Locust Control Camp, with 10,000 square miles to protect, had 24 men, three buses, two trucks and poison bait supplies. He was fortunate in being near the border of Saudi Arabia, and could use a nearby police radio transmitter. It would take a camel eleven days to take him to his home, but he was able to warn people of fertile areas that patrols reported a swarm moving within twenty miles of them.

The Iraq Division of the army to fight these locusts consisted of 400 men, under Iraq's Director General of Agriculture, who trained them for this Desert Locust warfare. The Director is a graduate of a Texas agricultural college, and was one of the first Near East officials to carry the fight with locusts to the deserts, where maps showed only blank spaces.

Some of the British Commonwealth divisions supplied information concerning the fight from their British Locust Control officers in Kenya, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan loaned a supply of aldrin by plane to Iraq, in case the allotment to that country might arrive too late. The United States, through its Technical Cooperation Administration, supplied as part of its Point 4 Project to the International Locust Control Project, sixteen light planes with pilots, technicians and supplies for the 1952 war against locusts in Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, India, Jordan and Ethiopia. One of its greatest contributions, however, was the discovery, manufacture and supply of aldrin, a very deadly insecticide for locusts, but harmless to live stock if properly used. This insecticide can be sprayed from aircraft, and when used at the rate of 200 oz. to 100 gallons of water, it will kill all the locust nymphs on one hundred acres of desert in less than an hour's flying time.

Iraq's Desert Locust Control Army had several years of training with their experienced Director General, who had organized thirty Locust Control bases in Iraq's vast desert, with tents, supplies and ground crews. Everyone in the country was willing to cooperate against the dread locust, and there were no better locust scouts anywhere than the nomadic camel borne Bedouins, who could locate batches of hoppers or guide control crews to any point required over the trackless sands. Ninety per cent of the Iraqis are farmers, who are most vitally concerned, but everyone: Desert police patrols, sheiks of the desert, even smug-

thankful when the job was done and they were safe back at camp, for the wind had increased to a gale. They had killed the hoppers on 200 acres that morning, and estimated that the job would save the crops on 40,000 acres of cultivated land to the north.



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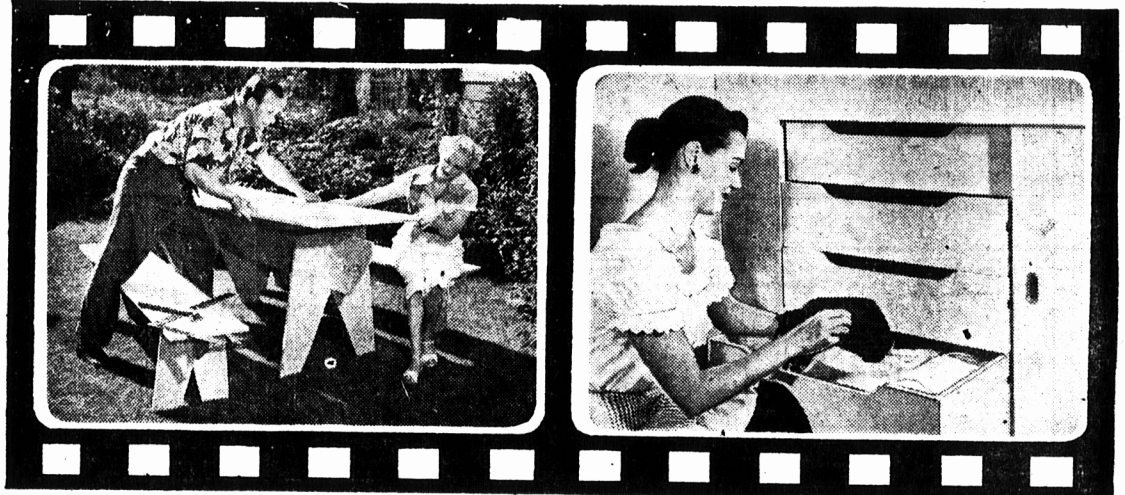
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Advertisement for Mink Farming, discussing the market for mink pelts and providing information for potential farmers.