

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The recent Hudson's Bay Company sale of silver and mutation foxes in their magnificent warehouse and sales room in Montreal, give probably the best indication of the trend of prices that we have noticed anywhere on the North American continent since the 1951 crop of furs has been available to buyers. Here is a detailed account of the sale — Buying for European account was responsible for practically all of the light turnover standard silvers at today's silver and mutation fox sale of Hudson's Bay Co. The small attendance of buyers reflected continued lack of general interest. Prices, where sold, were on the easy side bids usually falling short of the reserve.

Selected silvery (2,928) were needed. Regulars (2,858) brought around \$12, but with a range for silvery of \$10 to \$19 and for full silvers \$8.50 to \$18. Inferior types (1,259) were priced \$6 to \$11 for silvery, \$7.50 for full silver and \$8.50 to \$15 for three quarters. Europe was again interested. Selected and regular one-half (3,300) silvers were selected three-quarters bringing \$13.50 to \$23.50 and half silver \$20, while regular three-quarters ranged \$11 to \$20 and half silver was \$15.50. Mutation silver fox was bought very moderately for Europe. Platinum select ranged \$12.50 to \$25, platinum regulars \$10.50 to \$22, and inferior \$4.50 to \$12.

Pearl platinum selected ranged \$14.50 to \$25.50, regulars \$11 to \$24 and inferior \$11 to \$13.50. Low grades were in fair demand at \$1 to \$2. Practically all buying of mutations as well as standards was on European account. The Hudson's Bay Co. reported 26 per cent of the entire catalogue of standard and mutation silver fox sold and gave the following details: Silvery selected mostly withdrawn, silvery regular selective demand at easier prices; silvery inferior types good demand. Silvery easier one-half to three-quarter silver selected and regular small collection; good demand for darker colors. Platinum selected good demand for fresh season's skins of better quality and color unchanged; other types in fair demand at easier prices. Pearl platinum selected regular and inferior interest confined to medium and lighter colors slightly easier.

It will be noticed that Europe figured largely in the results. One thing that is to our disadvantage in selling silver fox and its mutations in opposition to Norway, Sweden and Finland, is the fact that our money is now on a par with that of the United States and both currencies are worth almost double the British pound, which is the currency that the European countries are pegged to. This is a handicap that is almost unsurmountable. The only relief would be to develop a market in the United States but silver fox is not commanding any better prices in New York or other parts of that great republic than it is in Montreal and recently in Milwaukee a large proportion of skins were said to have been sold for European account. If we could once again get into the preside.

South American markets, would be on the road to prosperity. According to some American furriers the Washington mink coat scandals have not hurt the sale of mink — they have helped it, states one large furrier. People who never even thought of looking at a mink coat much less buying one, have been coming in, said the owner of Vola's Exclusive Furrier. "Of course I followed the stories of Washington mink coats closely with advertising and I have keyed the advertising with types of coats mentioned in the news. Mrs. Vola believes that every joke made about mink coats is just that made of a boost for the fur business." However, there are other furriers who take an opposite view. Sol Richer thinks it is terrible, all the slams and jokes that are being made about minks. He said, "I believe they are hurting the mink business." Another furrier, Mrs. Slaughter, said she had to put up with some jokes about minks and influence peddlers but it has been all in fun and she believes it will have no lasting effect at all.

A new appeal to the Canadian Ministry of Finance to repeal the excess tax on furs, is being made by the Retail Merchants Association of Canada which claims a membership of some 600 retail furriers across the country. In addition the Association asks for a stop to be put on all immigration of skilled fur workers, likewise for relaxations in both banking and consumer regulations. The brief takes a grim view of the fur industry in Canada and states that fur dressing and dyeing has suffered much more severely even than fur manufacturing with last year's dollar sales volume off nearly 50 per cent and all plants greatly under-employed.

The union points out that while Canadian manufacturers have reduced the skin purchases, European buyers have been active at recent Canadian fur auctions and they believe that substantial amounts of the skins bought will be thrown on the Canadian market in coming months. Being processed they will have the effect of further reducing employment. The brief lambasts the 25 per cent excise tax and other taxes charged on the consumer and declares that the net effect has been to intensify the declining trend in the manufacture of many cheaper furs. If the fur industry is to make a valuable contribution to the Canadian standard of living, it cannot be as an industry which is mainly restricted to the manufacture of mink and other luxury furs, it is declared. It must be able to produce coats and other garments from the cheaper types of furs and to produce them at a price which will bring them within the reach of lower and middle income groups in the population.

STOCK BREEDERS MEET AMHERST, N. S., March 13—The directors of the Maritime Stock Breeders' Association met here today in preparation for the annual meeting of the organization tomorrow. F. George MacLeod of Black River, N. B., will be the guest speaker.

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

CANADIAN Y. M. C. A. MILITARY WORK

The Canadian Young Men's Christian Association has always been deeply interested in the welfare of young men everywhere. The first became a factor in volunteer military camps when the Montreal Y. M. C. A. in 1896 distributed literature and held religious meetings in the military camps of those volunteers who had enlisted to resist the Fenian raids. The Toronto Y. M. C. A. in 1871 instituted the first regular association service in the Military Training Camps at Niagara-on-the-Lake under their resourceful veteran secretary, Mr. Thomas J. Wilkie, who provided the soldiers with writing and reading material and held those religious meetings that have since been characteristic of the Association's MILITARY SERVICES. In the early days this work was initiated and carried out under the auspices of local "Y" associations. In 1882, the Inter-Provincial Committee of Ontario and Quebec took over the general organization of the Y. M. C. A. military work, which consisted of reading room and writing facilities, entertainments, lectures, sports and gospel meetings in those provinces. For the next thirty years, the Inter-Provincial Y. M. C. A. Committee, one for the Maritime Provinces, the one mentioned above, and one for the Western Provinces, had general oversight of Y. M. C. A. work in Canada.

A Canadian Section of the International Y. M. C. A. Committee served the whole Canadian Y. M. C. A. field in international problems. It arranged for Canadian secretaries in serving in foreign lands and during the Spanish-American War (1898) the Canadian Y. M. C. A. through the International Committee rendered such outstanding service in co-operation with the United States Y. M. C. A., not only in the military camps in the U. S. but by Y. M. C. A. secretaries, who accompanied the troops to both Cuba and the Philippines, and who, under the greatest difficulties, worked out the most effective ministrations that they earned commendation for services rendered to the soldiers.

South African War

The Canadian Y. M. C. A. in connection with the South African War, in the fall of 1899, sent Dr. Howard G. Barrie as their representative with the first contingent. In January, 1900, they sent Mr. T. F. Best to represent the Y. M. C. A. with the second contingent, in his own original and effective way. These men, by their outstanding work, secured from Lord Roberts authority to be attached to their regiments, with permission to work in hospitals, camps, and on the battlefields. This established a precedent of far-reaching significance, and their devoted and courageous work won the favour of the Canadian officers.

During the Russo-Japanese War (of 1904-1905) this Y. M. C. A. International Committee again demonstrated what could be done in the camps and for an army in the field by resourceful Association men, ready to adapt themselves to any situation. Canadian Y. M. C. A. Secretaries in foreign work as well as those from the United

States and Japan, carried out and extended the traditional Y. M. C. A. work among the troops.

National Council

It would seem that the movement was Provisionally guided, when in 1912 a new National Y. M. C. A. organization was effected. The Canadian section of the International Committee and the three Inter-Provincial Committees all merged their interests, and this new organization was called the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Association of Canada. It was authorized to act as the Executive of all the Y. M. C. A.'s in Canada. A staff of National and Territorial Secretaries and representative laymen from the Y. M. C. A.'s of all parts of Canada were made responsible for the promotion and supervision of all Association work.

This National Council, with two years' experience, was able to meet effectively the emergency of 1914, when it acted for the whole brotherhood in mobilizing the resources of the movement to carry out the great task of Y. M. C. A. military service. Perhaps it should be mentioned that in financial matters the National Council was quite separate from the local associations. When it raised or expended special funds, as for its war work, it was only responsible for the expenses of its own work. The local associations were independent units, receiving support from their local constituencies, and contributing to the National work, but none of the National funds were applied to buildings or work of the local institutions.

World War I

On August 4th, 1914, from a Y. M. C. A. Summer School at Lake Couchiching, the Chairman of the Military Work Committee of the National Council, sent a message to the Minister of the Militia, offering the assistance of the Y. M. C. A. for any service which it might be able to perform. The Minister accepted the offer on behalf of the Canadian Government. Later, at Valcartier, the Minister, Major General, the Hon. Sam Hughes, signed a document which fixed the Association's official position in all mobilization and training camps throughout the war.

It is recorded that among the first to arrive at Valcartier, as troops poured in from all parts of Canada, were representatives of the Y. M. C. A. Mr. T. F. Best took charge of preparations, secured a central location for the Association's establishment, and the next night, Aug. 24th, 1914, opened the Y. M. C. A. tent for service. It provided a place where the men could relax from military discipline and write the home folks. On that first evening, after the dry canteen had disposed of 250 pies in fifteen minutes, an open-air meeting was held where over 1,500 soldiers gathered around a bonfire, sang hymns and listened to short addresses.

When Mr. Best interviewed the Valcartier Camp Commandant, Col. Victor Williams, and as they renewed their South African acquaintance, Col. Williams said to him: "Go ahead, Best, along the same lines as in South Africa and the Niagara Camp, and I will back you up." The Association, true to its history, became patron of the letter-writing activities of the soldiers. In the Post Office tent, it provided writing accommodation for 200; this was insufficient, and soldiers were frequently seen in the evening, while waiting for their turn at the tables, writing on paper placed on the bent back of the man in front of him. The Association provided free envelopes and paper; this was greatly appreciated, and great quantities were used, as many as 9,000 envelopes and 14,000 sheets of writing paper were used one day.

LONDON—(CP)—Among various accident prevention ideas in use here are safety slogans moulded on shoes. When the children walk through wet patches the slogans are "printed" on the ground.

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Prince Edward Island

"Garden of the Gulf"—dear land of my birth, To me thou art the fairest place on earth. I have traversed the whole Continent o'er From Atlantic to the Pacific shore. I've dwelt in cities large, on lonely plains; But my heart turns to my native land again, And again, where'er I may wander, roam, There's nowhere as dear as my childhood's home.

Oh, I love thee for a million reasons! I love thy distinctly changing seasons, I love the little schoolhouse on the hill, I love every field, and dale, and rill. And I love the old-fashioned village church, The maple, and occasional white birch. Again see in panoramic view Scenes fairer than finest artists e'er drew.

Thus in fancy I roam the country o'er, But ever I return to the North Shore, My old-time favorite haunt at Cawnpore, Watch seagulls, listen to the billows roar. Dear little Isle!—haven of paradise, Tho' I glory in thy sunsets, sunrise, Thy magnificence ne'er again I'll see; My native land, 'tis hall—adieu! to thee.

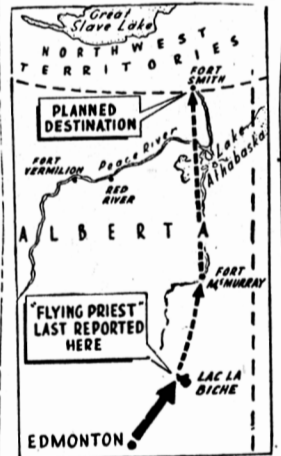
Written Wednesday morning very late and typed in the wee sma' hours of Thursday morn when all the world was asleep, I hope. There was naught to break the stillness of the night except the whirring of an occasional airplane winging its way to fields afar. And away in the distance the faint chug, chugging, of a train wending its way to parts unknown to this night-owl. Inspiration came from receiving a letter from sister, Carol, with a newspaper clipping containing some very poor verse on a very fine subject by yours truly. What a thrill I reached seventh heaven in the twinkling of an eye. Am still up there somewhere in the clouds of ecstasy. I loved the setting the paper gave my verses with the long-departed, illustrious old Queen Victoria in the upper left hand corner and her great-granddaughter, Elizabeth II, in the lower right, the Victorian line in between. February 27 & 28, 1952.

G. S. GORDON, Oakland, California.

—CLEVER DANCERS—

DAUPHIN, Man. (CP)—Six Dauphin students won their examinations for grade 1 ballet in Winnipeg, first group sent in from a rural centre. All the local entrants were given the "commended" rating by Miss Nellie Potts of the Royal Academy of Dancing in London, England, who is examining pupils across Canada.

Flying Priests Found Walking



Air search for "Flying Priest" Rev. William Lelsing and three missionaries resulted in the sighting of their bright red plane five miles south of Fort McMurray. The original search for the plane centred around the area where they had last been sighted over 100 miles south.

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Sgm. Robert Burns MacDonald, above, 21, of New Waterford, N.S., has been sentenced to death by a court martial in Tokyo for the murder of Pte. Harold Harrison, 31, of Truro, N.S. The tribunal which recommended clemency, found MacDonald shot his comrade Jan. 28 during a quarrel in a house at Tokchon, near Seoul. Harrison died in hospital Feb. 23.

Estimates Record Surplus For N. B.

FREDERICTON, March 14 (CP)—Hon. J. G. Boucher, provincial secretary-treasurer, today estimated a record high surplus of \$1,316,191 for New Brunswick's fiscal year ending March 31, 1953.

In his third budget, presented to the Legislature this afternoon, Mr. Boucher estimated revenue at \$46,492,094 and expenditure at \$45,175,903.

He anticipated no new taxation or change in the tax structure. The budget predicted a cut of \$960,563 in expenditures as compared with estimates for the previous year. A revised estimate of the surplus for the current year, ending March 31, was \$1,222,468. The original estimate was \$286,451. Mr. Boucher said the present budget "offers sufficient flexibility to meet some of the well-recognized requirements of our municipalities." These needs were "one of the most contentious problems facing the government."

The largest single increase in revenue is estimated from the new tax rental agreement which the province expects to complete with the Federal Government. This budget item is for \$14,000,000 as compared with \$11,597,000 for the current year. Including the regular Federal subsidies, the total from this source is expected to jump from \$13,246,748 to \$15,649,748.

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Farmhand To Hang For Brutal Knife-Slaying



Although his sisters wept openly, Elias Meek, 21-year-old farmhand, stood stolidly in Cornwall court-room while a Supreme Court jury returned a "guilty of murder" verdict for the brutal knife-slaying last September of Mrs. Allan Aguirre, 29-year-old mother of four. He is sentenced to be hanged on June 10.

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