TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming

The United States Senate passed a bill extending for another five years the government loan program for fur farmers. Action on the measure came after Senator John J. Williams angrily attacked the fur farm loan program as "pouring money down a mink hole or fox hole". He charged that only a few farmers had obtained fur loans from the Department of Agriculture and that the bill proposes to continue the loan program another five years so that poor credit risks and bad managers can borrow more money from the government. He contended that this was a proposal to help small farmers and called attention to a $325,000 loan made to a fur farming company in Wisconsin. Senator Milligan pointed out that the bill will not promote new fur loans, only loans to farmers who still owed money to the Department of Agriculture, and needed a little more time to straighten out their business affairs. He said the bill would relieve farmers distressed by changing fur fashions, the 20 per cent Federal fur excise tax and by a flood of imported furs from Russia and other foreign producing areas.

Ed Gold writing in Women's Wear Daily states that merchandise men are showing increasing concern about the heightened competition in mink which has brought markon down well below traditional levels. This pressure to hold the line on mink is being exerted with particular force in large department and specialty stores where large overhead considerations demand a fur markon averaging at least 28 per cent. "Mink is bringing that average down in several stores, a department store buyers contends, while non mink garments are being marked on an average of 33 to 35 per cent and quite a bit more in certain specialty stores. Mink has been getting only about 20 per cent markons. Our merchandisers say we cannot make money on that basis". Our comment on the above is that the mink farmers' headaches are probably not as great as the mink retailer.

About 30 British fur men left last week to attend the Russian fur auctions which began in Leningrad last Monday. They were all travelling by air. In addition there are six to eight Americans who left for Leningrad earlier.

A move is under way in New York to have their Senators, Herbert Lehman and Irving Ives, support a repeal of the 20 per cent excise tax on furs, also a tax relief for the movie industry. Fur farmers all over the United States are being urged to back this up. Arguments are that the fur industry has been hurt tremendously and has suffered real economic hardship during the past few years, this during a time when other industries have made enormous progress. It is contended that the taxes forced the industry into a desperate situation—the point of no return. Unemployment is rampant and the loss of income by a very large number of dealers, manufacturers, retailers and personnel offsets the return to the government of the tax itself.

With reference to the above we may say that the same arguments hold true in regard to the excise profits tax in Canada. It has been one of the major features in the decline and death of the silver fox industry. This was pointed out for years and years but no relief has been given. Now the silver fox industry, which once was a flourishing revenue producing proposition for thousands of Canadians, has gone.

D. O. "Doc" Collins, Editor of The National Fur News, has the following editorial in the latest issue:—"Mink ranching, like any other business, has its problems. The heavy burden of the Fur Excise Tax must be drastically reduced or eliminated. Something has to be done about establishing realistic quotas on fur imports from friendly nations. There is tremendous work ahead in the field of research. There's always the threat of over-production. And so on. Viewed as a whole, though, we think the mink ranching picture looks good. With mink accounting for 70 per cent of the $250 million annual volume of furs at retail in the United States, ranchers who know how to produce fine quality mink are making money. Being good business men—and perhaps former fox men—however, they must occasionally ask themselves this question: Can mink continue to be the Number One fur of American women? How long will it be until some other fur takes the lead?

As all fur farmers know, there have been cycles when first one fur, then another, rode the crest of popularity. In the late 1920's two Hudson Seal dominated the fur fashion world. Then to the throne came Silver Fox, the total eclipse of whose reign no one clearly foresaw. In the middle 1940's two furs, Persian lamb and muskrat, accounted for 70 per cent of the annual retail value of furs sold in the United States—a volume of some $500 million. Since then mink has been Queen.

Basing their arguments on the changing cycles of fashions in fur, some men in the trade hold to the view that the popularity of mink will pass just as other fur eras have passed. Limited price range women's desire for a new 'look' in furs, loss of exclusiveness as mink becomes more and more plentiful—these are contributing reasons. Mink ranchers, some of these men say, would do well to be developing other furs to supplement mink. This vital question—How long can mink hold its present leadership?—was soundly answered by Maurice Cantor, president of New York Auction Company, in an interview published in a recent issue of Women's Wear Daily. He takes the position that there is no historical parallel between mink and other furs which have enjoyed brief periods of popularity, then faded out of the picture as the fashion cycle swings another way.

Never, in the past 50 years, says Mr. Cantor, have there been enough fine quality mink to supply the demand. Over-production is improbable, in his opinion, because when faced with a situation where a certain type of mink encounters diminished demand, the rancher can shift his production into those color phases which are in good demand. "There are still millions of women in the United States and throughout the world who have not yet had the privilege of owning mink," he pointed out. "We should also remember that the replacement phase of mink is ever present. Women who have worn dark mink have turned to lighter colors, and the reverse." He added that there are unlimited possibilities in the use of cheaper grades of mink as trimmings for cloth and fur garments.

Mr. Cantor also expressed the view of the mink rancher when he said that, unlike other furs which have had their ups and downs, mink is adaptable to every conceivable type of fashion. Well, no one can predict the future, especially a future dictated by fashion. But, as we stated in the beginning, the mink ranching picture looks good. With the advantage of unified organization, modern advertising and promotion, and unquestionably the world's most beautiful fur, it is our guess that mink will continue to lead the fur fashion parade for many and many a year.

CRASH SURVIVORS — Mrs. Doris Maclaren of Morrisburg, one of the first to arrive at the scene of the bus-truck crash that took 20 lives near Morrisburg, Ont., greets two survivors. At left is Terry Sumner of London, Eng., and at right Russ Doran, Toronto. (CP PHOTO)

Immediate Probe Into Bus Accident

TORONTO (CP)—Highways Minister Doucett of Ontario said Friday there will be "an immediate and searching probe" into the bus accident which killed 20 persons near Morrisburg early Friday morning.

Seventeen of the 37 passengers escaped when the Colonial Coach Lines bus hit a truck and plunged into the Williamsburg Canal.

Mr. Doucett said in a statement: "I extend to all bereaved by this tragedy, probably the worst of its kind in Ontario's history, my deepest sympathies. Ontario and indeed, Canada will be shocked by this disaster.

"From preliminary investigation I hasten to add that there will be an immediate, complete and searching probe of all causes leading up to this tragedy. All members of the provincial government express a joint determination to find out the cause and to aid in fixing the blame."

Three From N.B. Lost Lives On Bus

SAINT JOHN, N. B. (CP)—At least three New Brunswick residents were among the 20 victims of the bus tragedy near Morrisburg, Ont., early Friday. Word of their deaths has been received by the families of Miss Catharine L. Reynolds, 26, Saint John; Mrs. Lawrence Parks, 24, of Bonny River, near St. George, and Weston Doak, 28, Fredericton.

Miss Reynolds and Doak were returning from holiday trips. Mrs. Parks had been visiting her husband, employed in Toronto. She has three small children. Doak is survived by his widow and a daughter.

Changes In RCMP Personnel

OTTAWA, (CP)—Appointment of Group Capt. L. G. Archambault, 40, of Montreal as director of the R. C. A. F.'s personnel manning division at Ottawa was announced Wednesday by the air force.

He succeeds Group Capt. P. A. Gilchrist of Kelvington, Sask., who will become senior air staff officer at air defence command at St. Hubert, Que.

Group Capt. Archambault flew with the R. C. A. F. squadron that escorted King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on their tour of Canada in 1939. He headed a coastal command squadron in the United Kingdom during the Second World War and before his present appointment was commander of No. 1 auxiliary group headquarters at Montreal.

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

DAVIS CUP TIE

We were fortunate in being present at the first round in the North American Zone of the 1953 Davis Cup Tie, between Japan and the United States tennis players, at the courts of the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Association at Pine Street and 16th Avenue on July 9th to 11th, 1953.

The Davis Cup is one of the greatest international annual competitions. More than thirty nations have this year entered tennis teams in this competition. Up to July 1st the following countries had won a place in the third round of the European Zone Ties. Denmark, Germany, France, Belgium, Great Britain, Italy, Sweden and the Phillipines. The winner of that zone will play India on Dec. 12th, 1953. The winner of the Inter-Zone Ties then plays the winner of the eight countries in the American Zone on Dec. 19th. The Inter-Zone winner then will play Australia, the 1952 champion nation at Melbourne, Australia, December 28th, 29th and 30th, 1953.

* * *

Trygve Lie, past Secretary General of the United Nations, when presiding at the draw for the North American Zone of the Davis Cup Tie this year said: "If all the disputes of nations could be settled on the tennis courts in the spirit of the Davis Cup Competition, then indeed, this would be a better world."

The coming to Canada of this great Davis Cup Tie Tennis Match was on this wise: The rules of the International Lawn Tennis Association provide that if either nation in a competition requires that the games be played on a grass court it is their privilege to ask for this. Japan this year asked that they play the United States team on grass courts. The games were to be played in the Pacific North West and the Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club had the only grass courts in the area. They built extra grandstands at a cost of $5,000.00 and so the competition was held in Canada.

* * *

The Japanese team came early to have practice on the magnificent smooth velvet surface of the Vancouver courts, because on account of climatic conditions Japan has no grass courts. With the start of play in the first singles event it looked for a time as if this might prove a deciding factor in the contest, however, after losing the first two sets in a five set event the captain of the United States team, Tony Trabert, switched his play, being unable to get ground strokes to work off the grass, he started forcing the game. The Japanese players had great dexterity and received a very large share of the applause from a great company of the spectators. The American team had greater dynamic and more initiative in changing their game to meet conditions as they arose.

The first event in Thursday's singles was won by Tony Talbert over Kosei Komo by the score of 4-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-2. The following details may be of interest to tennis players: Talbert served 8 aces, scored 41 placements, erred 59 times and double faulted 5 times. Kosei Kamo made 11 service aces (not untouchable but unplayable) 19 placements, 66 errors and served 6 double faults.

* * *

The second event in the singles was quite the opposite of the first. Hamilton Richardson for the United States put up a terrific barrage against Atsuki Miyagi and won the sets 6-0, 6-3, and 8-6. He showed considerable weariness in the 3rd set and when Miyagi tied the set at 6-6, it looked uncertain to most of us as to the final outcome. The sets went to "deuce" many times. Hamilton had one tumble to three falls by Atsuki as he slipped on the grass.

On Friday, July 10th, the American team, Tony Talbert and Tom Brown, won in the doubles over the Japanese team, Kosei Kamo and Atsuki Miyagi, 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2. They excelled in service, volleying and adroitness. Brown with his high-hopping second service gave the shorter Japanese men small chance in a game to which they weren't adapted. They put up a real fight; in the third set they were away to a 3-0 start and finished 6-3, but, after a rest the Americans won the fourth set and the event.

There was a change on Saturday in the players. The first event in singles was between the American player Tom Brown and the Japanese player Masanobu Kimura, who wears not only glasses but long pants and was won by Brown 6-2, 6-0, 6-1. The second singles event on Saturday gave the gallery which throughout the competition was particularly friendly to the Japanese, a chance to cheer; Kosei Kamo took the first set 6-0, from Hamilton Richardson. The event was won as follows: 0-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 by the United States.

An added International feature of the Davis Cup Tie at Vancouver was the arrival by airplane, in time to officially open the play, of the Prime Minister of Canada, Louis St. Laurent, who expressed the hope that "competitions like this would be all that came between the two great neighbours of Canada." He returned to the "mike" to say: "May the best man win."

Lieutenant Governor Clarence Wallace of British Columbia on the final day paid tribute to the fine sportsmanship of all the players. They even gave the crowd a "bonus" match when they scrambled teams. This extra treat, probably unique in the history of the Davis Cup, was much appreciated by the fans.

BELANGER FURNACES, RANGES and PARTS
Write or Phone
ALBERT J. ZAKEM
266 Grafton St. - Ch'town

ILLUSTRATION STATION FIELD DAYS

The Dominion Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture will hold Illustration Station Field Days on the following dates — rain or shine:

Farm of T. Albert Hicken, Alliston, August 4, 2:00 p.m. Speakers; Mrs. R. C. Parent, R. C. Parent, F. M. Cannon, G. C. Warren, F. M. Deacon.

Farm of William E. Johnston and Son, Long River August 5, 2:00 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. R. C. Parent, R. C. Parent, F. M. Cannon, Hon. C. C. Baker, W. R. Shaw.

Farm of Zenon Gallant, Urbainville, August 6, 2:00 p.m. Speakers; Mrs. R. C. Parent, R. C. Parent, F. M. Cannon, W. R. Shaw.

A tour will be made of the station fields, orchards, blueberry and reforestation areas. Fertilized pastures, meadows, mixtures for hay and pasture, cereals, root and potato crops will be observed. The experimental work active on the Illustration Stations will be reviewed and discussed by the Supervisor.

Take this as an opportunity to meet your neighbors, to converse with departmental representatives and view the work that is in progress.

W. N. BLACK, Agronomist,
Supervisor of Illustration Stations for Prince Edward Island

FARMERS

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR MARKETS?

THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT SAYS THAT THEY PROTECT THE CANADIAN FARMER

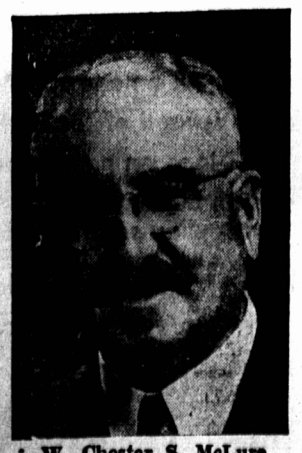
BUT, IS THIS PROTECTION?

HERE IS THE UNDENIABLE TRUTH ABOUT THE BRITISH MARKET:

	1943-1947	Today
Yearly export of Pork and Pork products, chiefly bacon	472,000,000 lbs.	NONE
Yearly Export of Cheese	112,000,000 lbs.	NONE
Yearly Export of Eggs	73,000,000 doz.	NONE

The same unfortunate circumstances are true in the case of beef. In 1945 our livestock producers exported $33,000,000 worth of Canadian beef – a market now completely lost to our livestock producers.
Also, prior to the war, Canada supplied 93.9% of the total British imports of oats. This market is now completely lost.

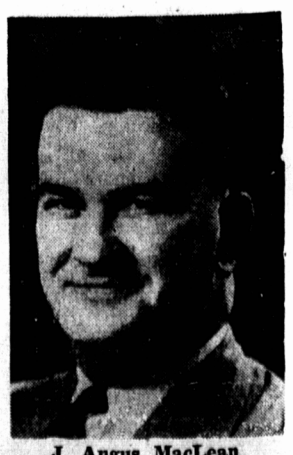
HERE'S THE REMEDY -- A PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL



W. Chester S. McLure

1.–Take immediate steps to restore and expand world markets for agricultural products.

2.–Appoint a National Agricultural Board for the purpose of establishing fair floor prices related to farm production costs.



J. Angus MacLean

RESTORE THE LOST MARKETS
VOTE
McLURE and MacLEAN

Inserted by the Queen's County Progressive Conservative Party.