

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

New York and Canadian bidders purchased 60 per cent of a fresh offering of 11,296 wild mink at the Hudson's Bay Company's general sale in Montreal last week. Prices in the sales room opinion averaged 10 per cent below January. Top price was \$46 for No. 1 and No. 2 extra dark and dark, extra large and large. Must, mainly fresh winter and fall average quality, was purchased mostly by Canadians at prices showing little change from January. Nova Scotia's sold up to \$23.30, North-west \$16.00, York Factory \$14.50, Eskimo Bay, \$15.50. Fisher was neglected but some attention was paid to winter which sold up to \$32. 6,953 pastel mink brought prices for males over \$15.50 to \$40; mixed males and females \$9.50 to \$30, and females \$8 to \$20.

About 50 per cent of the silver-fox offering consisting of 14,750 skins was sold. Prices for males ranged from \$13 to \$26.50; mixed males and females, \$16.50 to \$21; females, \$9.50 to \$14; Breach of Spring brought from \$21 to \$34; Blue Frost, \$3.75 to \$10.50; Blonde, \$15.25; Kohinur, \$4.50 to \$9.75; Arctic, \$11.50 to \$9.50; Arctic, \$17 to \$24.50.

The pelting season was usually in late November and large gangs of men went up and returned with thousands of carcasses of foxes. These were sold at auction in New York for many years and then Fromm's got the idea that he would hold their own auctions for Wausau, Wis. Their furs were well advertised and buyers came there and bought. Then they decided to not only grow the foxes but also to make them up into garments and brought from New York designers and experts in dressing, cutting and various processes to make up the fox furs into capes, stoles, etc.

This move not only antagonized the auction companies but also drew the New York attention to one of the principal reasons why that fur trade and the rest of the fur trade in the United States turned against silver fox. Nieman's were too shrewd to make a move like that but they suffered through their cousins and the rest of the world. Just what happened to the immense number of foxes killed off by Fromm's and Nieman's we cannot say. By this time they must be very stale skins if any of the take-off of a few years ago is still around.

The story of the Fromm's, Bright With Silver, written by Katherine Pinkerton, is one of the most interesting that we have ever read. In some ways it parallels the experience of our own countrymen like Charles Dalton, Oulton, the Rayners and others, except that the Fromm's made more mistakes and had more disappointments.

Our breeders had right here in this Province, the finest type of silver fox in the world. It was just a case of securing the animals and breeding them, but Fromm's had a very poor quality of silver fox in the native Wisconsin and had by trial and error to bring in various types in order to get a satisfactory breeding standard. As a matter of fact, the skins they produced were never in a class with the Prince Edward Island pelts but they made them popular with the sloe-eyed bright "With Silver", and because of that slogan and the immense advertising they gave it, all of us were influenced in getting away from the medium and light silver types into the full silvers.

Now the world is asking for a darker type of silver fox, something along the lines that Dalton and Oulton marketed in 1910 when they received an average of \$130 for 43 pelts sold at auction in London. It is impossible for us to produce that type of skin today, we haven't got the dark types in sufficient numbers or good enough quality to bring back again our ranches to the production of medium silvers.

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Advertisement for CAFETERIA CHICK STARTER GROWER. Includes text: 'If you want fast growth and economical gains... more pounds of pork per bag of feed... see us about'. Features an image of a pig and a chick.



DOROTHY BROWN, is one of the many Saskatchewan children who are losing their favorite calves in the drive to wipe out all trace of the hoof-mouth disease.

New Pension Plan For CNR Employees

MONTREAL, March 7 — A new pension plan for Canadian National Railways was announced today by Donald Gordon, chairman and president. It will take effect as from January 1st, 1952, and consists of two parts: the first part continuing the existing plan liberalized to make better provision for present and future employees who may become disabled and also for early retirement; the second part designed for employees who are willing to commit themselves to compulsory contributions in return for a higher pension.

The first part provides a basic or service pension at the expense of the company and a supplemental pension based on joint contributions. The employee contributes from 1% to 10% of his wages and after 10 years' service the company matches his contributions up to 5%. The amount of the supplemental pension is that which the joint contributions with compound interest will buy. Under this part disabled employees who have attained the age of 50 and who have at least 20 years allowable service will be permitted to retire on pension.

If the portion of the pension payable at the company's expense is less than \$40 a month the company by special allowance will increase its portion to \$40 until the employee is 65. If an employee with these age and service requirements should die in service, his surviving spouse or dependents may be granted half the applicable pension exclusive of the special allowance, in lieu of a refund of his contributions.

Alternative Plan Those who elect to follow part two of the railways pension plan must contribute 5% of their compensation from January 1, 1952, or the date on which they entered service to the date of retirement. On reaching age 65, they will receive a pension based on their average compensation during the last five or ten years of service, whichever is more favorable to the employee. The percentage will be one per cent for each year's service up to 20 years; one and a quarter per cent for each year during the next 10 years; and one and a half per cent for each year over 30 years' service.

On the death of the pensioner, or while the pensioner is payable during the lifetime of a surviving spouse or for ten years from the date of the employee's retirement, whichever period is the longer. Under this part also disabled employees who have attained the age of 50 and who have at least 20 years allowable service will be permitted to retire on pension. If an employee with these age and service requirements should die in service his surviving spouse or dependents may be granted half the applicable pension in lieu of a refund of his contributions.

Present and future employees may elect which part of the plan they wish to choose but their decision is irrevocable. Ample time will be given them to make their selection. Any contributions above five per cent of compensation made by present employees who transfer to part 2 will be returned before the date of transfer less than the required amount will be permitted to make good the arrears by additional contributions or lump sum payments. Pensions will be reduced proportionately if the arrears are not met.

Early Retirement Provision Although the normal retirement age is 65, provision is made under both parts for early retirement with reduced pensions. For each year below the age of 65, one additional year of service will be required. For example, an employee may retire voluntarily at 64 if he has had twenty-one years' service, 60 if he has had twenty-five years, or 55 if he has had thirty years' service.

Advertisement for CANADIAN GROWN FARM SEEDS. Text: 'For choice quality, Highest purity and germination. CLOVERS, GRASSES, MIXED SEEDS. Write Today for DELIVERED PRICES, stating quantity. SELECT SEEDS BRAMPTON, ONT.'

Federal Aid For Farmers But Not For Unemployed Packing Plant Employees

(By The Canadian Press) Federal purse-strings will be opened for farmers whose herds must be slaughtered because of foot-and-mouth disease, but Ottawa officials said Wednesday they likely will not be opened for the hundreds of packing-plant employees threatened with unemployment because of widespread marketing disruptions.

Norman Riches, a union official, said at Calgary that by the middle of next week about 1,200 Western-Canada meat-packing-plant employees will be out of a job. Workers have asked that the Federal Government provide the difference between actual wages lost and amount payable under the Unemployment Insurance Act.

But Ottawa officials said it was not likely that the Federal Government would meet such demands. If it did, it would set a precedent for hundreds of other requests for financial aid. Meanwhile, the Commons gave final approval to an emergency bill providing Federal payments to farmers whose livestock, buildings, crops and equipment are destroyed in the drive to stamp out the South Saskatchewan disease. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Will Seek Market As the three-day debate neared an end, Agriculture Minister Gardiner promised that the government will make every effort to sell either in the United Kingdom or elsewhere any meat surplus that develops in Canada because of the outbreak.

Adding to the general disruption, Nova Scotia joined Manitoba, British Columbia and Quebec in imposing restrictions on interprovincial movement of livestock and meats. But the Nova Scotia ban against Western livestock was of minor importance. It was for three weeks only. In practice only work horses would be affected since Nova Scotia gets half her beef supplies from Montreal packers.

Price drops and marketing confusion continued to be reported at various points. At Montreal, livestock markets showed extreme uncertainty. With Quebec's import controls beginning to take effect, shipments to Montreal were almost at a standstill.

At Toronto, the Ontario Agriculture Department, in its weekly report, expressed a general state of uncertainty among farmers. Simcoe County cattle were selling at \$50 a head less than farmers had expected. "Bargain prices" prevailed in Glangary and Elgin County reported Holstein prices off from \$100 to \$125 a head.

There was the first hint of possible cattle smuggling and illegal boundary-crossing developing. Montreal officials gathered to discuss ways to stop illegal shipments of Western beef. Spokesmen for the meat industry said they feared attempts may be made to cash in on expected price rises by importing Western dressed beef to Ontario and then slipping it into Quebec by truck.

Packing-plant unemployment swept through most Western points and even hit Ontario. At Toronto some 100 employees of Canada Packers were laid off. At Winnipeg, lay-off notices were handed to 700 employees of four major packing houses.

Mr. Riches, Western director of the United Packinghouse Workers of America (C.I.O.-C.C.L.), said at Calgary that lay-offs there have already started. He said 200 men were laid off in Alberta and another 500 would be affected if the marketing situation did not change by next week.

Suwon, Korea, March 7 — (CP) — A group of Korean school boys trudged along a road outside Suwon, carrying rush brooms, shovels and rice-straw mats. "We're getting our own school back today," said one. "The Americans moved out yesterday. We're going to clear it up this morning and then classes will begin."

The mats were to be seats, because there was no furniture. Since last August the 400 students of Sam II middle school had gone to class in the undamaged Methodist church. Principal Kim Dong Wha said Sam II School would have no heat, though the temperature was around zero but there were "good paper windows" and a sound, corrugated-metal roof. "My students clean their own school, that was nothing, he said.

"This is sanitation day when all middle school students, boys and girls, come to class with brooms and spades. "Once a month they must spend two hours cleaning the city streets. It's partly to help the city, because in wartime there aren't enough men to keep the city clean, but mostly it is practical training in citizenship."

Wherever possible in Seoul Province schools have been reopened. Classroom repair is under way, using free lumber, nails, glass and cement provided by the United Nations Civilian Assistance Command.

"We're working on 155 classrooms now," said the provincial team commander. "We'll increase the allocation as the work proceeds and materials become available."

Jack Purves of Cranbrook, B.C., the C.A.C. welfare officer said: "The kids are going to school in buildings without windows, in tents, in unheated quarters — but they're going to school. "Once school buildings are released by the army they are returned to the civilian authorities."

Texts and notebooks are scarce but there are reports that Canadian pulp is on the way and that it is to be turned over to the Ministry of Education. Meanwhile, Seoul's colleges and universities are functioning in tents in Pusan. (The philosophy faculty of one college blew away — tents, chairs and all — in a recent hurricane.)

There is no sign yet that the United Nations will release college and medical buildings now used by the military.

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

Medieval Universities Universities have always fulfilled a dual function in the social order. In them, the professions received the training that kept them abreast of their times, with the latest developments in their vocations, and they have been the guardians and authoritative exponents of society's ideal elements through the centuries. Many of the European universities had their beginning during the Dark Ages.

The oldest university in Europe, and probably in the world, claims to have been founded in 425 A.D., in the beautiful city of Bologna, Italy. Bologna's law school certainly dates from the tenth century, when its school of jurisprudence attracted students from all parts of Europe. The number of students receiving instruction in 1262 is stated to have been 10,000. The University of Bologna holds first rank among Italian educational institutions, though the number of its students is greatly reduced. At the beginning of this century it had given eight popes and more than 200 cardinals to the Roman Catholic Church. Its only rival in the early Middle Ages was the University of Paris.

University of Paris The University of Paris was the product of the Scholastic Movement in France; it sprang up spontaneously in the twelfth century, and gathered within its walls many of the best scholars in Europe. Unlike Bologna, in the University of Paris the professors worked together or united in the teaching of the different subjects that formed the curriculum. These, however, gradually developed into the four faculties of law and medicine (in 1213) and later arts and theology, the last being the most important of the four.

It was not until the thirteenth century that at Bologna and Paris the system of having different colleges began. Sorbonne, the first of these, was founded in Paris in 1263. There were about forty of these colleges, more or less equipped at the close of the fourteenth century, and their number had increased in Paris by 1500, to fifty colleges.

The University of Paris, like those in Italy and Spain, passed completely under the control of the authority of Rome, until the Revolution in 1789 abolished it. The great rival of the Paris University during the Middle Ages was the University of Oxford, which had its beginning in 1152, when one Robert Pullen instituted theological lectures. By the beginning of the thirteenth century, its students numbered thousands, and kings and popes were interested in its fortunes. Its fame brought four great orders of mendicant friars to Oxford: The Dominicans came in 1221, and the Franciscans in 1224. These, unlike some of the older orders, enthusiastically threw themselves into the work of the university, and their lecturers in the convent schools eclipsed the teachers in the secular schools. Oxford boasts two of the greatest men of this period, who were Roger Bacon and Friar Bungay. The dissolution of the monasteries with the coming of the Reformation, destroyed for a time, the glory of Oxford.

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Salamanca University Salamanca University, founded in 1243, was for five hundred years the glory of Spain. From the 13th century on it was one of the most celebrated universities in Europe. Its great square is surrounded by an arcade that accommodated 20,000 spectators.

The first cable message transmitted from Ireland to Newfoundland was sent by Queen Victoria in 1858.

Advertisement for ATTENTION FARMERS. Text: 'Until further notice our feed warehouse will be open ONLY on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Signed: WILTSHIRE DAIRYING CO.'

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Advertisement for CAFETERIA CHICK STARTER. Text: 'It's new... it's better... chicks learn to eat quicker... do better on it'. Includes an image of a chick and a product box.

Foot-Mouth Disease Has Invaded U.S. Nine Times

WASHINGTON, March 7 — (CP) Foot-and-mouth disease, most feared of livestock ailments, has invaded the United States nine times in recorded U.S. agricultural history. The government has spent millions of dollars combating the disease beyond its borders.

Canada, now fighting the infection in Saskatchewan, was the avenue by which the disease first invaded the U.S. in 1870. The outbreak in that year, Agriculture Department officials said today, was traced to cattle imported into Canada from Scotland. It spread into the New England states and New York.

Biggest known outbreak so far on the North American continent has been in Mexico where it appeared in 1946. Virtually all imports of cattle and meat into the U.S. from that country have been cut off since then but the U.S. has spent \$122,000,000 helping the Mexican Government wipe out the disease.

The Agriculture Department said foot-and-mouth has appeared eight times in this country since 1870 — in 1880, 1884, 1902, 1908, 1914, twice in 1924 and in 1929. Most of the outbreaks had their origin near Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coast ports.

About 1880, two or three lots of animals affected were brought to the U.S. but there was no extension from the animals originally affected. In 1884 there was a small outbreak at Portland Me., caused by imported cattle.

In 1902, the disease was discovered in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and spread to New Hampshire and Vermont before it was stamped out. The next appearance was in 1908, when it was discovered in cattle near Danville, Va.

Most Serious Outbreak Another outbreak was discovered near Niles, Mich., in 1914. The outbreak turned out to be the most serious and extensive ever known in this country, the last infection not being disposed of until 1916. It spread into 22 Mid-western and Eastern States and about 175,000 head of livestock were destroyed in the three-year period.

In 1924 the disease was discovered in California and in Texas. required. For example, an employee may retire voluntarily at 64 if he has had twenty-one years' service, 60 if he has had twenty-five years, or 55 if he has had thirty years' service.

Effective July 1 next, some revisions to existing pensions will be made so that there shall be substantial equality in the treatment of pensioners then living with employees who will retire in the future. Pensioners who contributed to the pension fund during their period of service will be given the option of exchanging their present pension contract for a pension computed according to part 2 of the plan and of the type it provides. Pensioners who did not contribute during their service will continue to receive the basic or service pension to which they are entitled under the existing rules, as will be the case with respect to non-contributing employees who retire hereafter.

OTTAWA, March 7 — (CP) — Canada's Governor-General, Vincent Massey, has accepted the appointment of chief scout for Canada, the Boy Scouts Association announced today. The association announced at the same time that Canadian scout membership has hit a peak level at 128,760. This is an increase of 11,080 over the 1950 total.

BRISTOL, England — (CP) — Nicholas Mortimer, 4, whose brain was pierced by a pellet in a shooting accident, will have a piece of bone grafted on his skull. Doctors decided no early attempt could be made to remove the bullet.

Advertisement for WORTH HIS WEIGHT IN BLOOD. Text: 'Brownie, 15-year-old horse, views his latest contribution to the welfare of mankind — two gallons of his blood. During seven years the horse has given 2000 pounds of blood, 400 pounds more than his own weight, for use in manufacture of tetanus antitoxin. He is one of several equine blood donors kept by the biological laboratory of a Philadelphia pharmaceutical firm.'