

Timely Notes On Fur Farming

A report from Frankfurt, Germany states that German mink ranchers' output of about 30,000 animals per year is increasing at the rate of about 10 to 15 per cent for the 12 months of 1955. However, the quality of German ranch mink is still below the American level, states Frederick Seelig, German mink rancher, who recently visited the United States. German mink ranches are small and mostly operated as a sideline.

Only a few ranches raise over 1,000 animals and the largest ones possess not more than 2,000. They are situated around the North Sea area where the fish supply is plentiful. Most German mink eat fish; only 20 per cent are meat fed. This is the main reason why imports of American animals play only a minor role. In the United States and Canada ranch mink is mainly meat fed and acclimatization would be difficult, Herr Seelig stated. Germany imports mink mainly from Scandinavia where they are fed half fish and half meat, making Scandinavian mink more suitable for them.

There is much cross breeding in Germany and mutation mink is bred in almost every possible color. The share of mutation mink in Germany's output is between 25 and 30 per cent. Germany does not import raw ranch mink skins but sells them dressed. German mink ranches are able to supply about only 20 per cent of Germany's mink demand. The rest is imported mainly from Scandinavia. United States mink though desirable in quality, is in general too expensive because of high transportation and freight costs.

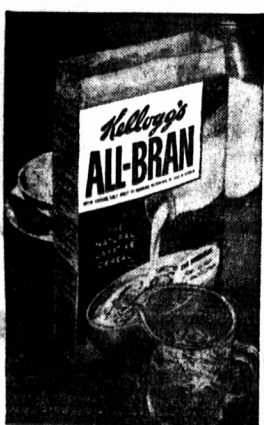
The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Quebec) Ltd held a special sale yesterday, October 7th, with 8,000 beaver, 300 otter, 40,000 muskrat and 2,000 ranch and wild mink.

A "299 promotion of mink stoles and capes at the Evergreen Plaza Chicago, last week was very successful. It was backed up by a three column ad in the Sunday Chicago Tribune. The ad was illustrated with three photos, one featuring a clutch cape. Response was heaviest on the clutch cape in silver, though all types of mink were represented in the \$299 collection.

Sam Gottesfeld in an article in Women's Wear Daily, has the following to say: World production of ranch raised mink will approximate 5.3 million pelts this year on the basis of available official and unofficial information. In the United States fur farmers appear certain to exceed the 3 million mark in ranch mink production. Canada estimates it will have a crop of around 785,000 mink and the total for the four Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland is expected to be closest to 1,400,000. United States mutation mink output last season amounted to over 76 per cent of the total crop as compared with 70 per cent the previous year. Pastels continued to be the biggest color phase amounting to 37.5 per cent of national production.

Prices for all ranch raised mink

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increased an average of \$1.52 over the previous year. The 1954 figure was \$22.19 as compared with \$20.67 in 1953 and \$19.46 in 1952. Last season average prices were as follows: Standards, \$17.17; silver, \$19.79; pastels, \$27.11; white, \$40.18; gunmetal, \$28.81; blue, \$37.17; Ruby-eye pastel \$60.05 Wisconsin continued to rank first as the biggest producer of ranch mink. Some 228 ranches in that state produced 978,412 pelts in 1954, 34 per cent of all produced in the United States. In second place was Minnesota with 209 ranches and 319,074 kits and 11 per cent of the national output. Michigan was third with 132 ranches producing 192,764 kits and 7 per cent of the output. Illinois was fourth with 169 ranches producing 174,062 pelts and 6 per cent of production.

Hudson's Bay Company are now offering the mink rancher a protection against disastrous losses caused by disease. It is possible for ranchers to obtain at a reasonable premium rate protection against loss caused by all diseases including distemper, botulism and enteritis. This old English company has been successful in making arrangements through their insurance brokers to have this unprecedented insurance protection available to their shippers. They state that present indications point to a strong opening market and advise ranchers to take all possible care of their mink and they will be certain to receive the maximum price.

We were talking to a very well informed local rancher last evening about raising mink and whether Newfoundland offered very much better opportunities than Prince Edward Island. He said the only better thing that Newfoundland could offer was a supply of whale meat which could be obtained at very reasonable prices, but he said

to offset that now we are buying a fish product from packers in Souris that fed with a proportion of local horse meat will give us a formula as good if not better, than the Newfoundland one and the cost is not very much more. Labor costs are a bit higher here but then we have other attractions that we think make it much more desirable to raise ranch mink in this province than to go outside it.

Ken Montgomery of Edmonton, President of the Canada Mink Breeders Association, addressed the National Mink Breeders Association recently at their Seattle, Washington, meeting. He brought greetings from the Canada mink breeders and said that it was a source of great satisfaction to all relations that had existed through the years between the mink breeders of the United States and Canada. "I can assure you," he said "of the continued cooperation of the Canadian mink breeders with American mink ranchers to our mutual interests. To cite just a few examples (a) during the past two years Canada Mink Breeders have made a direct contribution to EMBA Advertising Fund of approximately \$60,000; also about \$60,000 to promote sale of dark mink in countries other than the United States. Canada Mink Breeders has sponsored and accompanied exhibits of mink garments to Europe annually.

"During the past several years and particularly this spring, garments valued at \$90,000 were shown under our sponsorship in Milan, Italy, Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium. These garments with the exception of one dark mink piece, were made up from EMBA pelts and promoted as such. These displays were witnessed by several million people in the countries where shown. In re search this year we have arranged for the best agencies in Canada including financial assistance, to concentrate on that dread disease, infectious enteritis. During the past few years this has been confined to the pro-

Other Won't Forget Visit of Black Bear

THURMAN, N. Y. (AP)—Charley Bills, aged 14 months, is not likely to remember the day the black bear visited him. But his mother will never forget it. Mrs. Edith Bills said Charley suddenly began jabbering with enthusiasm in his play pen on the porch of their house in an isolated section near this Adirondack community the other day.

She found him sticking his finger out through the play pen slats, smiling and cooing. A big black bear was standing nearby on its hind legs.

"I grabbed up the baby and ran into the house and into a bedroom and slammed the door," she said. "The baby didn't seem to be scared at all."

The bear just plodded away.

HATFIELD, England (AP)—Britain's latest Comet jet airliner landed here Friday after completing its first test flight outside the

New Anti-diabetes Drugs Are Claimed

BAD HOMBURG Germany (AP)—Two new anti-diabetes drugs to be administered by mouth were announced to a German medical congress Wednesday.

Prof. Ferdinand Bertram, chief internal physician at the Hamburg-Barmbek hospital, reported a drug called BZ55 was successful in most of 100 tests he supervised. This is a sulfonamide compound found by Mannheim chemists who noticed it caused a rapid decrease in the sugar content of the blood.

Bertram said the treatment offered "good chances of success" for patients above 45 if the diabetes is not older than five to 10 years and if they were not treated with insulin longer than one to two years.

country. The new Comet left Britain Sept. 30 and visited Athens, Khartoum and Rome in trial runs. The original Comets were pulled out of service after two fatal crashes last year in the Mediterranean area.

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