

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.S.

WEATHER AND SEASONAL OBSERVATIONS

Everyone is interested in what we call weather, whose sum total throughout the year is known as climate, and climate is a very important factor, not only with reference to our own personal comfort, but in determining the flowers and vegetables we may grow in our gardens, and the crops that can be produced with profit on our fields.

mean temperatures of our summer months are almost as constant as the temperatures of the large bodies of surrounding waters that control them.

It is the spring, however, that we are most interested in now. Will it be early or late? Does it really make much difference to us? If so, what is the difference?

In seeking to answer these questions, accurate records have been kept at the Charlottetown Experimental Station of weather conditions and crops ever since the Station was started in 1909. A careful analysis of these records in 1926 indicated that a late spring, though more favourable for some crops than for others, has always given us larger and better crop yields than those following an early spring.

This investigation has shown that each normal spring has been followed by crops that gave yields very similar to the average of many years. An early spring has been followed by greatly reduced yields, amounting in some cases, to less than 90% of all crop averages.

There has been a great deal of work along meteorological lines in other countries, that has been of direct benefit to the farmers. In certain countries of England, the average yield of fall wheat has been estimated within a few pounds of the actual yield per acre, by correlating the autumn

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming

Canada's Exchequer Court has ended the long controversy over the status of mouton, (processed lamb) and has ruled that mouton coats are fur coats and therefore subject to the 15 per cent excise tax. The argument of the company was that since processed shearings were sold by the foot rather than by the skin and did

not move at the regular fur auctions they were not furs. After exhaustive studies and definitions from various store manufacturers and buyers, Justice Cameron ruled that the Merino sheep skins used in the mouton process are the skins of fur-bearing animals. He said that most fur stores and nearly all department stores sell mouton in their fur departments and advertise them as furs. This situation in addition to dictionary descriptions left no alternative but that the trade regard mouton coats as fur coats, he said.

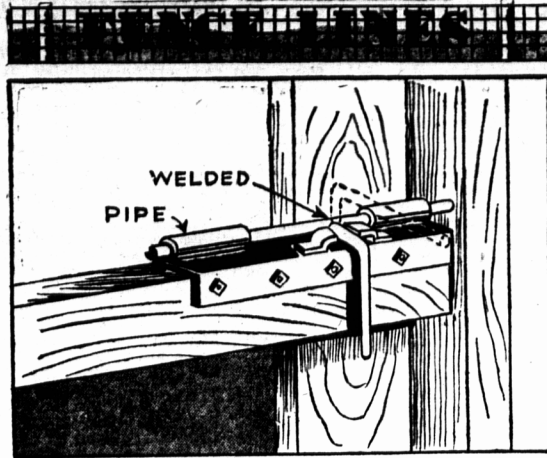
British imports of raw furs from the United States during February totalled \$438,658. This represents a gain of 40 per cent over February, 1953. During February the United States was the largest supplier of raw furs to the United Kingdom.

Sam Gottesfeld writing in Women's Wear Daily, has the following: "Fox is making a slow but steady come back into the fur picture in Spring orders compared to a year ago and most are greatly encouraged by signs of increasing interest in the item among the nation's retailers. Major activity to date is in two and three skin capes and stoles in Norwegian blue fox and white fox, though there has been improvement in the performance of pearl platinum fox and black fox in some instances. Business of course is by no means comparable with the heyday of the silver fox some years ago. The item has a long way to go even to approach its one time nation-wide popularity and to overcome virtual abandonment by retailers and consumers in recent years. But a start — a good start has been made."

Generally regarded as among the leaders in the field, Gruskin and Feldman reports Norwegian blue fox as its top seller, followed by white fox and pearl platinum fox. This year excellent potentialities in pearl platinum and feels that American breeders should promote the item to enhance its possibilities. It was this firm which was the biggest purchaser of Fromm's Golden Glory fox at the recent auction and it reports this mutation all but cleared to leading retailers. The limited availability of Golden Glory of course, prevents it from making any considerable dent in the market but foxmen are in agreement that the nation-wide publicity given the Fromm Bros. mutation has served to revive interest in all type of fox. Ernest Flesch states that the trend towards fox is positively much stronger than a year ago. He feels that many retailers are holding back purchases pending final action on tax relief and looks for greater activity once the tax is out. He reports that Norwegian blue fox and white fox are the leading types in stoles and clutch capes.

At the Dominion Fur Auction sale held in Winnipeg last week wild mink prices were unchanged with all the 2,000 pelts selling. Northern large and extra large brought \$19 to \$21; medium and small, \$19 to \$21. All the 4,000 ranch mink sold with mutations advancing from 10 to 15 per cent. Fresh muskrats sold 85 per cent; Alberta's large and extra large winters sold at \$1.24; large and extra large falls, 80 to 86 cents; medium and small 52 to 56 cents; Manitoba's northern winters large and extra large 96 cents.

Various names have been suggested for the standard Canadian silver fox to give it a boost on the market. Among them in Onyx, which appears to be the favorite. Opaline has been suggested for pearl fox and Palladium for platinum fox. It is assumed that the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association has taken steps to register these names in Ottawa and Washington, D. C. The much favored term Crystal



CORRAL-GATE LATCH... Horses won't be able to nudge open this simply-made latch. Steel rod is slid back and forth inside two lengths of pipe welded to one side of piece of angle steel. Rod bent at right angles is welded to bolt for handle, must be raised before bar may be unlocked.

fox had to be ruled out owing to registration problems. A. E. MacNeill of Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., has been made a life member of the Saskatchewan Fur Breeders' Association. This well deserved honor marks the appreciation of the fur breeders of Saskatchewan for the services of a man who can truly be called the dean of Western fur breeders. Mr. MacNeill was born on Prince Edward Island and he was one of those who saw the possibilities of fox breeding in the west. He had a small ranch of his own and also ranched foxes for a company in near Regina. It was in his ranch that the first white-marked fox was produced. His parents were a pair of silvers, one of a shipment of several pairs sold to the company by McLeure and MacKinlay Silver Fox Farms, Ltd. At that time registration could not be obtained for foxes with white markings and "Ollie" bought the fox from the company and placed it in his own ranch and it became the progenitor of a great many of the white-marked foxes that found their way to Prince Edward Island and other places.

With the advent of mink farming he lost no time in taking his place in the forefront of mink breeders, buying animals of good quality and new types as well as breeding standards. Mr. MacNeill has been a tower of strength to his Saskatchewan neighbors, supporting every activity of the Fur Breeders' Association and giving freely of his long and wide experience to fellow ranchers. Two sons, John of Colorado, and George who is associated with his father in the Qu'Appelle ranch, are both noted fur farmers, experienced in the art of producing high quality stock and well qualified to carry on the MacNeill tradition. "Ollie" times ago has made a splendid recovery and appears to be as alert and interested in his ranch and other activities as he has ever been.

As we were writing these notes we caught a glimpse of John A. Lea stepping along the street at a lively clip, bare-headed and looking as though he were in his sixties. He is back from the wilds of northern Ontario — roads almost inaccessible but John is supervisor-contractor to make them fit for travel by auto or any other type of vehicle. He was quite an athlete in his younger days, could run, jump, pole vault, in fact was an all-rounder and his training still stays with him. He was also one of the best mounted foxmen of the province, greatly interested in companies such as the Magic which produced some of the finest silver foxes in captivity. He furnished breeding stock to ranches in the United States, Western Canada and Quebec.

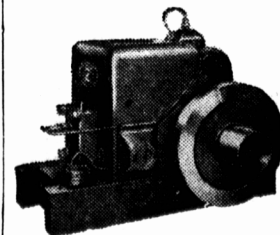
The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company (Quebec) Ltd. auction sale held in Montreal last week saw ranch mink better quality strings sell to good advantage with prices very firm. In mutations particularly, good demand was noted on Sapphire, especially in better quality clear colors. New York buyers were active throughout the selling but high shippers' limits held up sales considerably. Sixty per cent of the 16,792 ranch

mink was sold, mostly to American buyers. Top price was \$30.50 for best Yukon males. Prices ranged as follows: Best Yukon males, \$12.50 to \$30.50; females, \$7.75 to \$17. Wild Mink (4,007 skins) sold 62 per cent. Top price was \$42 for North Manitoba 1 pt 2, XL and L, extra dark and dark. Prices generally ranged for Northern Manitoba \$38 to \$42 for XL and \$16 to \$27 for medium and small.

In mutations, Sapphires were 65 per cent sold. Prices were \$49.50 for 1 part 2 Breath of Spring males and \$24 for females. Top prices for pastels was \$36 for 1 part 2 males and \$19 for females. Top price in platinum was \$30.50 for males and \$18.50 for females. Aleutian sold for 70 per cent with prices ranging from \$19.50 to \$28.50 for males and females \$14 to \$17. Prices for white were \$28.50 to \$46.50 for males, and \$20.50 to \$22 for females. Kohimur sold at \$12.50 to \$15 for males, and \$8 to \$10.25 for females.

The passing of Senator J. Walter Jones at Ottawa last Wednesday was a great shock to fur farmers wherever the news was heard. As early as 1911 he was interested in fox farming which was then being carried on with great success by his future father-in-law, the late Franklyn Boyer. Later he picked strains for Mr. Boyer and named them and these particular strains made history at exhibitions and fur sales. In 1912 Senator Jones was given the task by the Dominion Government of writing an authoritative work on fur farming and fur-bearing animals in Canada. It was without doubt a tremendous job and meant a tremendous lot of time and study in its completion. His efforts were largely directed to cattle breeding and he bred some of the world's champion Holsteins and he has been regarded as one of the top breeders in America. The writer has known him since his student days in Prince of Wales College and we have had many contacts with him and always found him a genial friend. In later years he has occupied one of the most important posts in our province, that of Premier, and in that capacity has instituted many reforms that have been of benefit to the people. His family life was exceptionally happy and he had also the pleasure of seeing his son Bus become a leading mink and fox rancher. We in common with all fur farming friends, extend to Mrs. Jones and family our deepest sympathy in the loss of a loving husband and father.

ATTENTION FISHERMEN



Fairbanks-Morse 2 H. P. Engine Your Price \$118.50 Reg. \$148.50 Its record speaks for itself. Inquire at Douglas Bros. & Jones Ltd. Dial 6565 155 Kent St.

The All New PAPER-MATE PEN IN Glistening White 198 per cent. Make Your Purchase At Island Book Room Gt. George St.

WORTH CUDDLING



IT'S NO WONDER she cuddles that chinchilla, for it's one of the main cogs in a Canadian industry that's valued at close to \$2,000,000. A family of four is worth \$3,600. The National Chinchilla Breeders of Canada has a membership of 1,800.

IN THE HOME WORKSHOP



This elaborate apartment house for purple martins is of the right size to make a special backyard attraction. Martins are gregarious birds and like to make their nests near the house. It must be ten to twelve feet off the ground or it will not be used. As this Colonial mansion complete with chimney has no framing it is made from three-quarter-inch glued-up stock. Use any widths of scrap found around the workshop. The pattern gives tracing diagrams for the shaped parts and large drawings showing just how to cut out the pieces and the steps in assembling. This pattern is included in the Bird House Packet which will be postpaid for \$1.50. If only martin house is ordered the price is only 35c.

Address orders to the Homework Shop Department, Guardian Office.



GENUINE CHINCHILLA'S (NOT RABBITS)

THE ANIMAL WITH THE LUXURY FUR

THE FUR OF TOMORROW

Hubley's Chinchilla Ranch of Ansgang, N. B., and Cape Breton, N. S., has just now got ready and have opened another small Chinchilla Ranch at Hawthorne Avenue just off St. Peter's Road in Charlottetown.

We cordially invite you to visit our ranch where you can see and handle animals. Mr. Hubley will be at the ranch for 10 days to see you and talk this new thrifty industry over with you and to pass along any information you may require.

This ranch has been set up to serve the people of P. E. I. You may obtain your breeding stock here at a much lower price. You are buying from a local breeder. There are no middle men or agents to pay. We handle only fine quality registered stock. No order too large or too small to be appreciated.

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TIP OF THE WEEK FROM YOUR MASTER DEALERS

- Charlottetown L. J. Rossiter
Summerside Prince Edward Island Fur Pool Ltd.
O'Leary H. B. Willis Inc.
French River Arthur A. Campbell
Central Bedeque Dunk River Dairying Co.
Albany L. D. McLeod & Sons
Victoria L. D. McLeod & Sons
Stanley Bridge Reid's Feed Service
Wheatley River Preston Kackham
Morell Dingwell & Rossiter
Kilmuir McGowan's Ltd.
Murray River D. M. McKinnon
Brookfield Cruwys Bros.
Mount Stewart Clark's Feed Service

TIP NO. 32 Limit the number of chicks per brooder unit to 300 for pullets and 400 for broilers. Let's Discuss Your Feeding Plan With Your Island's MASTER Man IVAN KERRY Dial 5455 60 Green St. - Ch'town FEEDERS WHO KEEP RECORDS USE MASTER