

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming

At the Saskatchewan Fur Marketing Service sale held last week muskrat showed a firm to slightly stronger prices. A top of \$2.40 was reached in a fine collection of northern muskrats. Cumberland House muskrats brought from \$1.44 to 74 cents; Central and North Central muskrats from \$1.32 to \$1.56 for extra large and small sizes brought from .58 to .70 cents. Almost 100,000 muskrats were sold.

A. Bishop & Co., Chicago, fur and men's furnishing retailers are going out of business after having been in business for 94 years. One of the deciding factors in selling was the fact that the building in which their salon was located is to be torn down this fall.

A collection of 27,312 EMBA Retail Parcels brought good interest and unchanged prices at Hudson's Bay Company fur sales, New York last week. Earlier a collection of 4,500 raw EMBA mutations also brought good interest and unchanged prices. Prices for minks of the pastel type ranged from \$42 to under \$30 with the majority running between \$30 and \$35, females ranged from \$21 to \$27.

A New York report is that a recent slump in hard goods business may cause department store management to pay more attention to fur operations this season. These sources contend that top management is showing increased concern with declines in hardware volume and is seeking to bolster store-wide volume by propping up soft goods sales particularly wear goods in ready to wear. Fur operations are generally regarded as the weakest spot in the ready to wear picture all over the country. A common condition which has existed for at least five years. For this reason some retailers are said to believe that the fur departments can show substantial improvement if management is willing to merchandise and promote furs more aggressively than heretofore.

Last week's London sale of ranch mink by the Hudson's Bay Company showed that Scandinavian bred mink are in demand to 15 per cent. American ranch mink which was locally held, was mostly withdrawn, the limits bring too high. H. B. C. estimated that 60

"Newest type featured here, for instance, silver fox bleached a golden bronze, is said to be already registering considerable acceptance with retailers. It is listed as a good recorder number in semi-shaped stoles. Upward trend toward more color in foxes is also pointed up by the fact that pastel-dyed versions are moving up in the selling picture here. Cited is the growing cross-country demand for azure blue, dusty pink and champagne foxes. Another color that is being well received is a gray with blue undertones. These pastel foxes, it is noted, are re-ordering best in double tiered cape-

Agricultural Meetings Planned

MONTREAL, (CP)—Agricultural technicians from all parts of Canada will gather at Macdonald College in nearby Ste. Anne de Bellevue June 21-24 for the 24th annual convention of the Agricultural Institute of Canada.

Chief speaker at the opening session of the four-day convention will be Sir James Scott-Watson, chief adviser to the United Kingdom ministry of agriculture.

I Stood by a Stream

I stood by a stream pure crystal clear,
And here to me was a stream most dear,
Swirling on through East Valley field,
From which oft I had garnered a troutly yield.

I stood on a grassy pad of green,
Just touched by a shower to a glimmering sheen,
Beside a stream where the speckled trout lie
Beneath the surface awaiting a fly.

I stood on an emerald turf trimmed in red
Waiting to pull a trout from its bed,
And my soul was stirred with the beauty around
And the rippling stream with its peaceful sound.

I stood there fishing as the sunset came
And the hues were dimming like a dying flame,
And I put down my creel and my fishing rod
And my soul was at peace in this beauty of God.

—John E. Sinclair
Lawrence, Mass.

ets, with center band of matching satin that can be hooked up into shirrus.

"At the same time that these colorful foxes are pushing up into the promotional spotlight, bulk business continues to center around Norwegian blue fox. Rather than leveling off after success of last season, demand for this fox is said to be on the increase and stronger than ever. At present, it is noted, buyers are asking more for the lighter mutations than any other type. Listed as second best in current ordering is natural white fox. Favorite styles are pocket-peplum stoles and double-tiered, semi-shaped ones plus capelets."

Fur breeders are reminded that the annual general meeting of the Prince Edward Island Fur Breeders' Association will be held in the Board Room of the Department of Agriculture at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 25. The ranks of the fox breeders are getting smaller but the mink breeders are increasing in number and both of these need the encouragement and support offered by the Association, so it is hoped that all members who can will be in attendance.

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

THE TIN CAN

So far as we know, the tin can came into being, because Napoleon was concerned at the great loss of his fighting men by scurvy and food poisoning. This was so great that he offered 12,000 francs to the discoverer of a method whereby his Imperial armies in many lands could be safely fed essential foods at all seasons of the year. At that time his offer would amount to about \$2,500 United States currency, and would be considered a fortune. The value of the franc has changed greatly since then, for in 1951 we had a quite modest dinner in Paris, France, and it cost us 1,000 francs each.

Nicholas Appert, a French confectioner, who preserved food by sealing it in bottles that were placed in boiling water, won the prize. The firm of Donkin & Hall, about the same time in England, improved on the method of presalting the tin. This was the forerunner of the tin can industry. This industry grew rapidly, so that by 1890 the supply of tinplate used in the United States was being imported from England and Wales. From then on in the United States the manufacture of tinplate was made attractive by a high import tariff in Canada, however, the requirements were imported largely from Great Britain as recently as 1935.

The great iron and steel firms of Hamilton, Ontario, now produce almost all the tinplate required in Canada. As iron and scrap steel are melted in the open-hearth furnaces, and cooked with limestone and other materials, a steel suitable for tinplate is produced. The cooking is continued for about eleven hours when the molten steel is drawn from the furnace into giant ladles, which carry 200 tons at a time, and pour it into ingot molds. Giant rollers then reduce the steel, after further treatment, to slabs three tons each in weight. Later, these slabs are heated and delivered to the "hot mill," where, after several reductions, it comes out as a coil of steel. The coil is pickled after cooling, and the scale removed, ready for cold rolling into tinplate. Sulphuric acid and other materials are used in the pickling process, and the steel goes through many washings before it emerges as a bright strip of steel that is then covered with a vegetable oil to prevent rusting. It goes to the cold-rolling department in reeled coils.

The hot rolled strip is rolled at normal air temperatures to the thickness or tinplate, (.001 inch).

It comes through the cold reducing mill in strips about a mile long at the rate of 4,000 feet per minute. The palm oil used as a rolling medium, must be removed from the steel so that its surfaces can be tinned; for this purpose an alkali cleaning agent "Pensalt" is used.

There are two methods in use in producing tinplate that is coated with a very thin layer of tin on both sides of the steel strip. In one method the steel is processed in sheet form, and dipped in a molten mass of tin, after the steel plates have been treated with a zinc chloride-based flux, so that the tin will adhere to the steel surfaces. When this method is used, the unit of sale is a "base box" containing 112 sheets 14 x 20 inches, this equals 31,360 square inches of surface, and 1 1/2 pounds of tin are required to cover both sides of this area of steel. The thickness of the tin coating is said to be 0.00008 inch on each side.

The second method was a development caused by World War II, when the British and Dutch tin mines in the Far East were seized by the Japanese, there developed a shortage of tin in North America. An electrolytic coating process that conserved tin came into general use; by its use, only one-quarter pound of tin was required for each base box, that is, the same amount of tin by this method would produce six times as much tinplate. In this method, the steel coils are first thoroughly cleaned by passing them through alkaline and pickling baths to remove scale. They then pass through the electrolytic tin-plating bath, where the steel strip which is the "cathode" receives a UNIFORM deposit of tin from the "anode," the anode being a bar of pig tin immersed in the bath. To operate such a line requires 17 tons of tin anodes, and 15,000 gals. of electrolyte. The tinplate comes out dull, and is brightened or "fixed" by treating it with chrome acid. It then has to be cut the required size and sorted for shipping.

Types of Cans

Up to the end of the last century, commercial tin cans for food preparations were hand-soldered, open top or hole-and-cap type. To fill the latter type, the food had to be stuffed into the can through an opening less than 1/4 inch in circumference, and the separate cap with a small hole in the centre, was sealed on with a soldering iron. The vent hole was closed after the cans were boiled. The packer's, or sanitary can:

POTATO GROWERS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

You are about to be asked to vote for a Potato Marketing Board. What does it really mean?

The following facts are worthy of your consideration:

- (a) The Provincial Marketing Board did not consult Prince Edward Island Potato Marketing Board on the question of the Plebiscite nor the wording of the ballot. Why?
- (b) If the Potato Marketing Board is all that the Promoters claim it is, wouldn't common courtesy require that the Board be consulted on the ballot and the questions to be asked? In other words, your producer-controlled Board is dictated to by a three-man non-producer Board.

It is always accepted by those who are interested in the Potato industry that a Provincial Potato Board is a desirable organization to further the interest and to give leadership to the industry in every way. Is this what the farmers are asked to confirm? We feel that on the surface it is, but in reality the promoters have something else in mind which is a compulsory Pool and one man selling for the whole potato crop financed only by the grower's potatoes.

There are several facts about one desk selling which should be considered.

- (1) It would create an autocrat whose ideas would be forced on all.
- (2) No autocrat could sell potatoes on a competitive market.
- (3) The present marketing arrangement has antagonized the customers for our potatoes, after having lost the United States Spring seed trade, and if it were not financed by the Dominion Government this would have ended in disaster.
- (4) Service, quality, and previous connections would be all gone.
- (5) Compulsory Pools in any other vegetable produce have all faded and gone.
- (6) Financing a compulsory Pool can only be done with the farmer's own potatoes, and he pays for all mistakes.

Remember the chairman of the present Marketing Board at various meetings has made it clear he favors complete authority for the Board. Much has been talked about co-operation between the New Brunswick Board and the Prince Edward Island Board and all benefits that would accrue. This year has shown us that the benefits are entirely imaginary.

Be very careful what you do.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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DOOR CANOPY PATTERN-345

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Sale to be held May 28th, 1954, 1:30 p.m., at the Provincial Exhibition Grounds, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

For catalogues contact—
JIM NICHOLSON, P. O. Box 369, Charlottetown, P.E.I. Phone 4425

TIP OF THE WEEK FROM YOUR MASTER DEALERS

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Stanley Bridge Reid's Feed Service
Wheatley River Preston Rackham
Morell Dingwell & Rossiter
Kilmuir McGowan's Ltd.
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Brookfield Cruwys Bros.
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