

FARMERS' MEETINGS

MARCH 11th and 12th
LEGION HALL, — CHARLOTTETOWN

Wednesday, March 11th—
2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.—Prince Edward Island
Dairymen's Association.
Thursday, March 12th—
10:00 a.m.—Prince Edward Island Sheep Breed-
ers' Association.
2:00 p.m.—Central Farmers' Institute.
7:30 p.m.—Federation of Agriculture.

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS

CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox and Mink Farming



For some time we have been wondering how the American and Canadian markets could handle the vast quantities of mink which are being thrown on them. Now we notice where Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., New York, are issuing a circular letter to all ranchers which features the cancellation on March mink sales. They explain it this way: "Since the beginning of the marketing season very large quantities of Ranch and Mutation Mink have been offered for sale by the auction houses and a very high percentage has been purchased by the trade. While a large portion of these pelts have already found their way into the hands of the consuming public, there are still sizeable quantities of pelts in the possession of dealers and manufacturers and it is our opinion that it would be in the best interest of all segments of the industry to offer to the trade an opportunity to reduce their inventories. Thus, after depelting their stocks, buyers will be in a position to make further sizeable purchases."

"We think that you will agree with us and, therefore, we are cancelling our scheduled Mink Auction Sales during the month of March. We will resume our Sales schedule on April 14th and we herewith give you our Auction Sales Dates for the months of April and May, as follows: April 14th, Ranch Mink, Mutation Mink (non-members of MMBA) Last receiving day, March 21st, April 28th. Details of offering to be announced later. May 11th, Ranch Mink (including UMBA), last receiving day, April 18th. May 26th, Ranch Mink (GLMA) Last receiving day, April 30th. Further EMBA Auction Sales Dates to be announced following the MMBA meeting early in March."

"We realize that there are ranchers who would like to sell their pelts prior to the month of April. In such cases, we shall be pleased to offer their pelts at Private Treaty and submit any reasonable offers obtained for their consideration. If financial assistance is required, we will arrange for immediate advance payments against consignment upon request. We also call your attention to our livestock loan facilities. If interested, kindly write for further details. Any requests will receive our immediate consideration."

A cable to Women's Wear Daily from London has the following: "The Hudson's Bay Company concluded selling during the morning sessions with an offering of silver fox in which the darker shades sold well and other types were meagrely withdrawn. Top prices were silver fox, dark, \$8. shillings (\$24.50); quarters, \$9. 10s. (\$26.60); halves, \$11 (\$30.80); three-quarters, \$8. 15 s. (\$24.50); full, \$7. 5 s. (\$20.30.) The above prices look mighty attractive to us on this

side of the ocean but we imagine that the quantities sold at the above figures were very small and the skins exceptionally good. The New York-New Jersey branch of the National Chinchilla Breeders Association held their annual show in the Hotel Statler, New York last week. Some 500 chinchillas were displayed. Commenting, Women's Wear Daily says: "This marks another in the numerous events in cities all over the country to publicize chinchilla, and to encourage breeding of the animals. Breeders estimate that it will require about 30,000 Americans to raise the 1,500,000 chinchillas that will have to be bred before a regular pelting program can be launched. This, they feel, may come in about eight years. They estimate that there are now about 250,000 chinchillas in the United States."

"The claims made by the chinchilla breeders are that when the pelts are marketed commercially they will fetch from \$50 up in the fur market; that it will be profitable for breeders because chinchillas are non-meat eaters and feed costs run only about \$3.50 a year. Fur trade sources in the meantime remain cool to chinchilla and its possibilities. They claim that there is no demand for chinchilla among the vast majority of fur sources, and that the chinchilla breeder organizations selling the public a bill of goods through a super publicity campaign designed primarily to sell breeding stock at fabulous prices. A pair of breeders now brings \$1,000 to \$1,500, according to the breeders, and "usually produce, within four years, a herd large enough to sell off as many as 10 other breeding pairs a year, for an income of \$15,000 a year."

"If and when commercial marketing of chinchilla becomes a reality, trade sources believe, it will be the large professional breeders who will be the backbone of the business and not the non-professionals who are raising the animals in cellars and back yards. Of the 400 exhibitors showing at the New York show this week-end, 18 live in Brooklyn, and others in New Jersey, Westchester, Long Island, and Connecticut. These are the very part-time breeders, which the fur trade believes, will be forced out of the picture when large scale marketing develops."

Japanese exports of fur skins to the United States during 1952 were almost 50 per cent larger than the previous year. The gain was accounted for almost entirely by increases in shipments of undressed squirrel, rabbit and miscellaneous skins. Figures show that there were 349,140 mink and weasel skins, undressed, shipped to the United States during the first ten months of 1952. The United States is Japan's largest customer, taking about 75 per cent of the mink and weasel, half of the squirrel and one-third of the rabbit skins exported. Japan exports altogether about 80 per cent of her production of mink skins, 60 per cent of the rabbit and about 85 per cent of the squirrel. Export prospects for 1953 do not look so good, due to the price situation. Right now the exporter must pay as much for skins as he can realize on the market so that the trade is profitless. As a result more furs are being used domestically.

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THE SUPERVISOR,
Vocational School, Charlottetown.

Bonus on Guernsey Females

The Prince Edward Island Guernsey Breeders Association will pay bonuses up to fifty dollars on females purchased by a new breeder, provided that he has not more than four females including the animal or animals on which he is requesting the bonus. To be eligible for the bonus the animal must pass inspection and conform to certain standards. For details contact

NEIL A. MATHESON, Association Secretary,
care of Patriot Office, Charlottetown.

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

HANDKERCHIEFS

Handkerchiefs are believed to have originated with the Romans, who called a small cloth that they used to remove perspiration from their faces a "sudarium". They also held it in front of their mouths to avoid or ward off disease, rather than to prevent the spread of infection to others. The Romans also inaugurated the custom of waving the handkerchief when greeting friends or persons of high rank in the theatre, and also when applauding or showing their appreciation of actors that gained their favour. Anyone who has witnessed the departure or arrival of the great ocean liners or observed national parades in London and New York, will remember the sight of thousands of handkerchiefs that were being waved to those going or coming, or those taking part in national events. The cheers roll out in great volume for those most honoured, but the handkerchiefs continue to flutter after the people are too hoarse to shout any longer, and when those acclaimed are away out of hearing.

There seems to be evidence that the phrase: "At the drop of the handkerchief" also originated from the time of the Roman Emperor, as a similar piece of cloth, dropped as a signal that games in the arena were to start. This signal is probably as old as the one used at the close of combat by the gladiators, when the victor looked to the Royal party and the great crowd, which indicated by "waving down" that he was not to spare the life of his opponent.

The use of the handkerchief for hygienic purposes, while apparently one of its most ancient uses, and now its most valuable contribution to public health, declined with the fall of the Roman Empire. During the Dark Ages its use disappeared in the filth and ignorance of a period when the coat sleeves or any garment took its place as a means of wiping the nose. It is recorded that the placing of buttons on the sleeves of men's coats was resorted to at the time of the Renaissance to deter men from substituting their coat sleeves for handkerchiefs. There was one exception to this unclean and unhygienic practice; the famous Dutch scholar, "Erasmus" (1465 — 1536), a man far in advance of his time in so many ways, actually considered blowing one's nose a social duty; so he possessed a surprising number of handkerchiefs, and put them to this very practical use.

We learn from history that King Henry IV of France possessed twelve shirts but only two handkerchiefs. Samuel Pepys (1633 — 1703), in his "Diary", discloses that Charles II, that supposed "Merrie Monarch", could also boast of just two. From early in the fourteenth century to the end of the sixteenth century, the handkerchief was as indispensable as jewels to ladies of fashion, to indicate their class and rank in Europe. Large handkerchiefs, exquisitely ornamented with wide borders of the finest Gothic-point lace, may be seen in the portraits of Royal ladies of that period. Many of these "mouchoirs", extravagant Renaissance handkerchiefs, cost enormous sums of money. They were reserved for ceremonial occasions — court weddings and christenings. Ladies of the Royal courts used these attractive squares of silk and lace to draw attention to the beauty of their hands, they developed a flirtatious code, known as

the "language of the handkerchief", supposed to be quite as effective as the language of the fan became later.

Very few of the exquisite and luxurious fine silk and brocade handkerchiefs were washable, and while generally highly perfumed, were not carried for hygienic reasons by the aristocratic ladies. Chemical dry cleaning methods were unknown, so that, despite their elegance, these "shaw" handkerchiefs soon became useless due to their need of cleansing. Before the coming of chemical bleaches, clothes were boiled in water or sun-bleached, but the results did not compare with today's gleaming whiteness of modern hankies. Near the close of the seventeenth century, the handkerchief ceased to be a luxury, and became a necessity. This was due to the growing habit of using snuff, a fashionable vice, started in the French Court, that spread to Germany and throughout aristocratic Europe. People had to use handkerchiefs to keep the snuff from staining their clothes. In Germany, handkerchiefs became known as "snuffing cloths". This habit of taking snuff spread to the middle classes, and as the snuff stained the white handkerchiefs, coloured ones became popular in the eighteenth century, and we were adopted as articles of every day use. It became necessary to have some place to carry them, and the name pocket-handkerchief became general.

Men's handkerchiefs developed into large cotton squares. Many of these were printed or dyed. These were at first done by hand, later by engraved copper plates. The demand for these handkerchiefs gave a great impetus to textile printing, and many men's handkerchiefs of that period vie with the pictorial handkerchiefs of today, as they were printed in colour with maps, calendars, historical portraits, and they were also used for caricaturing persons before the people. Many derisive illustrations of Napoleon were printed on English handkerchiefs.

When men began to use handkerchiefs universally, the ladies' handkerchiefs became smaller and daintier, many of these were exquisitely hand-embroidered on the finest cambric, and worn only on special occasions to be handed down from generation to generation.

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The Standard Dictionary describes handkerchiefs as (1) "A piece of cotton, silk, linen or the like, usually square, with hem or selvedge, used for wiping the face, nose or eyes. (2) A pocket-handkerchief, less properly a neckerchief."

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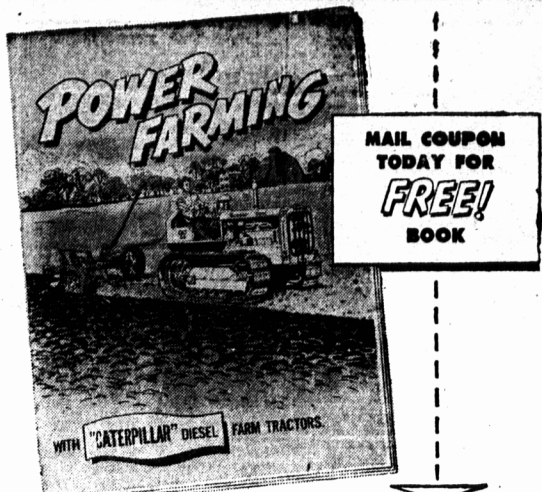
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