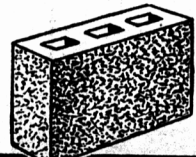


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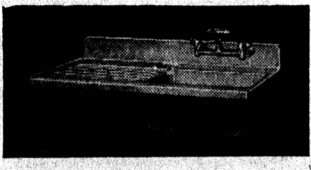
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**TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Mink Farming Silver Fox and**

A telegram from George A. Callbeck to the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, Summerside, has the following with reference to the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Quebec) Ltd. sale held in Montreal this week. . . Small attendance buyers for fox buying. Fair quantity of regular colored silverblues and Pearl Platitudes best quality in demand. Others neglected. Ranch mink fair demand. Silverblues good demand. Pastels fair with 40, 60 and 80 per cent respectively sold.

In the fourth century Rome was the center of fur fashions. Later Constantinople became the center of luxury and the fur market which it remained for over a thousand years. In Istanbul today the fur and hide market occupies the same location as this ancient fur market. In later years when the Hudson's Bay Company was formed and Canadian furs were being brought to Europe in quantities, London became the center of the fur industry and remained so until World War 2 when New York took over. Now London is attempting to again become the fur center of the world.

Strong demand for wild furs was shown in the January sales of Little Bros. Fur Sales Agency Vancouver, B. C. Ranch mink was slower moving with the greatest demand for medium price standard ranch. Pastels had a sales spurt of about 75 per cent over the last sale and good colored silverblues were also in demand. While Aleutians moved slowly. Standard mink prices were unchanged with top quality males bringing \$25. to \$28.50, females, \$18. to \$15; good quality males, \$18. to \$21, females \$17, females \$2.25 to \$9. Silverblues brought \$30. to \$35. for light

males, females \$18. to \$20, medium males \$20 to 25, females \$15 to \$17, dark males \$20 to \$23. Breath of Spring light males, \$50 to \$52, females, \$25. to \$30, dark males, \$32 to \$38 and females from \$17 to \$20. Light pastel males were \$42 to \$45, females, \$22 to \$24, darks \$22. to \$24, and females, \$15. to \$24. Light sapphire males ranged in price from \$70 to \$80 and down to \$40. to \$50. for dark males.

Wild fur trappers are finding this a very difficult season and a great many have not bothered going out with their traps as prices are so low. At the B. C. auction other was 100 per cent sold with extra large and large darks bringing \$22 to \$25, and interior large \$18 to \$20. Deltone sold from \$3.25 for giants down to 60 to 65 cents for smalls. Beaver has also taken a big flop. Yukon blankets fetched \$20 to \$23, and extra large \$16. to \$18, down to \$5. to \$6.50 for smalls. Marten ranged in price from \$10 to \$12.50. Extra large brown down to \$14. to \$15. for Cascade and Coast large.

Byzantine nobles wore the most extravagant raiment of history and their elaborate robes were lined and trimmed with precious furs. The most valuable fur then was mink. A Russian sable which was worn only by royalty. Other furs used included ermine, marten and fox. In the latter part of the 19th century silver fox was worn by royalty and the nobles of Russia, Austria and other countries. The Russians particularly liked to have their coats lined with silver fox and it was to Russia and Austria that most of the Dalton silver fox pelts that were being brought in the prices went. It will be remembered that 33 pelts from the Dalton ranch averaged over \$1,300 each at Lampton's auction sale in March 1910, and the top price of over \$2,500 was paid for a silver fox pelt which with some others found their way eventually to an Austrian nobleman's possession.

The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Quebec) Ltd. press releases on the recent sale held there has the following. . . An estimated 35 to 40 per cent of the offering of 43,545 ranch mink sold with prices about unchanged from December 3rd to December 22nd sales. The quantity of top quality mink was not on a par with the offerings at the two previous sales and demand was limited. There was, however, a fairly brisk demand for female mink. The trend in recent sales and good percentage changed hands as did a fair proportion of the cheaper and regular goods. There was brisk action in the marketing of the large catalogue of the 10,207 silver blues which were an estimated 50 per cent sold from the December sale. A similar pattern was followed in the sale of pastel and miscellaneous mutation mink. Prices of ranch mink ranged from \$15.50 to \$25.50 for one part 2 extra dark and dark males and from \$9. to \$13.75 for females. One part 2 part dark brought \$9.50 to \$17. for males and \$8.50 to \$9.50 for females. Top price of \$29. was paid for one part 2 extra dark males which ranged up to \$18.50 to \$15. For 1 part 2 dark the range for males was \$13.25 to \$18.50 and for females \$8.25 to \$10.75. Silver 1 part 2 males were \$17. to \$29, females \$11. to \$19 and mixed \$12. to \$25. Breath of Spring ranged \$25. to \$40 for males, \$15.50 to \$26.50 for females and \$20. to \$31. for mixed. Stewart brought \$25.50 to \$31. for males, \$17. for females and \$18.50 to \$24.50 for mixed lots.

High grade American chinchilla coats and capes and stoles are expected to go on the market next year for the first time in history. The National Chinchilla Breeders' Association is getting ready 10,000 pelts which they claim are necessary to put the industry into business at the end of the year. The breeders are being urged to range operate in a nation wide pelting program by pelting 10 per cent of their animals and sending them to the chinchilla co-operative storage at Salt Lake City, Utah. There they will be graded and matched and culled and from there they will be sent to the furriers to be made up for sale.

The muskrat offering at the Canadian Fur Auction Sale had a total of 150,000 skins, nearly all of them fresh. Seventy per cent was sold. Prices ranged as follows . . . winter part fall, Nova Scotia, \$1.35 to \$2.60, Quebec, \$1.45 to \$2.15, Prince Edward Island, \$2.20, United States \$1.20 to \$1.75, Alberta, \$1.00 to \$1.20, Spring skins, Nova Scotia, \$2.45 to \$2.60, Quebec, \$1.75, United States 90 cents to \$1.65, Alberta, \$1.25, Alaska, \$1.55 to \$1.60, New foundland, 98 cents to \$1.40, Saskatchewan, 68 cents. It seems from the above that Nova Scotia muskrat skins are preferred along with Prince Edward Island, to those of many other places.

"After all the consumer eats about the same amount of pork all the year round, and all that is accomplished by shipping more pigs at certain seasons is to drive the price downward," Mr. McInnis said. He noted that pork markets in the United States tended to fluctuate, since many pigs in that country were raised outdoors and had to be sold at certain seasons. In Canada production could be staggered. "The job of our agency will be to sell hogs to the highest bidder, and to look for sales outlets, whether in this province or elsewhere," he said. "The U.S. market may provide some outlet, but it is not likely to do a great deal for us." "The scheme will control all hogs marketed for processors in Ontario, beginning Jan. 23, and will include those which go to the Montreal and Hull markets. The agency will deal directly with all buyers, and the length of time for each price agreement will depend on individual arrangements between the sales board and the buyer. Price to be paid at all major centres in the province will be published daily. It is hoped, said Mr. McInnis, that the new selling method, in addition to providing a better deal for the farmer, will reduce the spread between producer and consumer prices to the benefit of both. "And," he added, "if we could get this on a national scale it should eliminate the need for floor prices except in emergency."

**-NEWSY NOTES-**

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

**AFRICAN VIOLETS**  
The African Violet, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, was given the family name of the discoverer, Saint Paul and a species name which means (with violet-like flowers) by the Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Herrenhausen, Germany about 1890. It was discovered by Baron Walter von Saint Paul, Governor of Usunbara in Northeast Tanganyika, Africa, who first sent seeds of a wild plant home to Germany.

Many hundreds of varieties of this plant have since been developed. Their beauty and attractiveness have made them one of the most popular house plants and many thousands of Canadians are growing, or trying to grow this plant, which combines so many aesthetic qualities. They may be seen in homes, libraries, offices and office buildings almost everywhere. Methods of propagation are simple, so that there is a continual exchange of cuttings with friends, until many develop the collector habit, and test out their skill on this challenging plant.

**Exhibits**  
Some six years ago, at the first African Violet show in North America, which was held at Atlanta, Georgia, there was such a commotion and public interest caused by the importation from East Africa, that extra police had to be secured to protect the exhibit and to keep the crowds moving and untangle snarls in the traffic. This was probably the first time that a plant has disturbed the peace, or incited a near riot among quite law abiding people. An exhibit of 110 named varieties of African Violets was made by Joan Copeland of Cooksville, Ontario, at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, last summer, which attracted great crowds, many of whom picked up literature re this plant or placed an order to have plants sent to their homes.

An "African Violet House" operated by Mrs. W. L. Hardy at St. Genevieve, P. Q., has a collection of 400 plants, and she has travelled all over the continent to acquire new varieties from growers. This house is one of the "Meccas" of flower fanciers. African Violet societies have sprung up, devoted to the propagation and perpetuation of better and larger African Violets, which are rapidly displacing the time honoured geranium that so faithfully beautified the homes of people in every walk of life throughout our land. Did anyone ever hear of a Geranium Society? Yet some day it may have its turn which it so richly deserves. In the meantime someone is likely to start an African Violet Society in your community.

**Difficulties**  
This plant originated in the moist, semi-tropical region of East Africa, and no doubt many of its ancestors grew in jungle shade through generations. It grew outdoors, and always had an abundance of warm, pure air, moisture, and soils rich in humus. When any of these conditions are lacking, many people have tried, without success, to grow these plants. They have frequently been offered bewildering and conflicting advice. There are many different climatic conditions in the different regions of North America, and precise advice on the growth and care that would apply in one region may not suit this plant in other places. Perhaps the challenge of these difficulties may partly account for the remarkable popularity of African Violets. People like to succeed with a difficult problem, particularly when their final success produces a plant such as the African Violet, with its lovely leaves and exotic bloom.

**Suggested Care**  
Remembering its native habitat, we suggest that African Violets will thrive best in a humid atmosphere with plenty of light. Few of our homes in winter have enough moisture in the air for our people, and not nearly enough for African Violets. They should not be, however, in direct sunlight, and should be shaded when placed in windows that face west or south. This is particularly true in winter, when the sun is lower in the sky and shines much farther into the house. Light shades should be used to prevent the sun from shining directly on the plants. To secure and maintain the natural symmetry of the leaves, the pots should be turned every few days.

Some say they should be watered only from the bottom, and that indeed may be a safe way for those who do not use care to avoid wetting the crown, as this may cause rotting at the point where new growth develops. Rain water should be used in cities where the tap water is chlorinated, or where it contains a high mineral content. Some melt snow in the winter for watering, but water boiled and allowed to stand for a few days will have its mineral and chlorine content lessened so as to be safe. Use water of a temperature about the

decided that the host should act as discussion leader each night so Mr. Webb Nicholson presented the following questions which were discussed thoroughly by the members before they agreed on the answer which the secretary should forward to central office. Messrs. Miles and Lloyd MacKinnon. The topic was embarking on surpluses. The farmers felt that prices and markets were not sufficient to encourage them to produce to capacity; that there was not enough outlet for the products of the farm. They decided that stockpiling for military preparedness would help to some extent, but that it would be only a short term measure. They agreed with steps being taken to raise the standard of living of people from other lands. They felt that apart from the humanitarian principles it involved the greater purchasing power of their hands would enable them to absorb some of our surplus foods.

The Forum met for the final roundup night at the home of Mr. Colin MacDonald. The feature of the evening was a discussion of the international wheat agreement. Other activities in the school, Farm Forum and Women's Institute. (B) What else could be done? A few suggestions were courses, folk schools, debates, and participation in music and drama festivals.

**FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INSPECTION**  
Any person offering the following named fruits and vegetables for sale must comply fully with the provisions as outlined in the Federal Fruit, Vegetable, and Honey Act. On and after February 1st, 1953, official inspection of the fruits and vegetables indicated will be conducted under the provisions of this Act as authorized under Provincial legislation, and infractions of the regulations will be dealt with according to the penalties provided. All packages and containers must be clearly and accurately marked with the grade of the fruit and vegetable contained therein and offered for sale.

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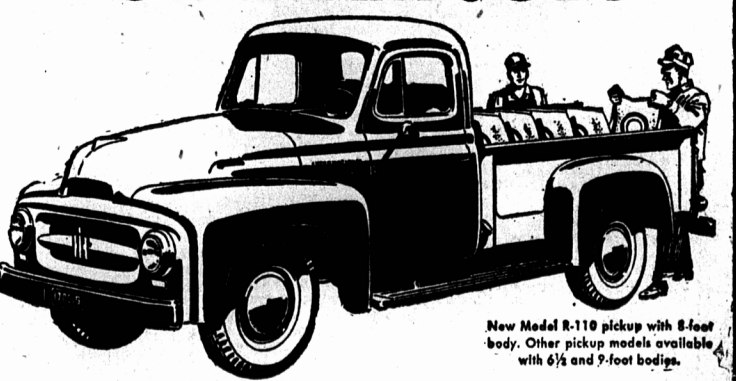
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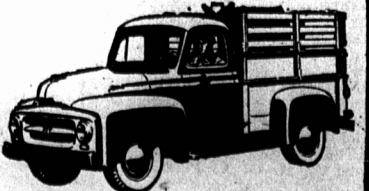
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