Timely Notes

Silver Fox And Mink Farming

A comprehensive plan for a large scale national advertising campaign for the fur industry has been drafted by a Michigan furrier who has almost a half century experience as retailer and advertising man. He is C. W. Wheeler of Three Rivers, Mich., a wholesale and retail firm established in 1891. Mr. Wheeler's plan is predicted on raising $2 million for national advertising through a tax averaging ten cents a skin at the dressing and dyeing level. He says most men in the fur industry have sunk into a defeatist attitude like that of the horse whip manufacturers with the advent of horseless carriages, or ice box makers when electric refrigerators were introduced, yet there is no similarity whatever in the situations. We have merely allowed the average woman to conclude that mink is the only fur in fashion and if they cannot afford mink they are better dressed in a good cloth garment. The trade's goal therefore is to convince the average woman that all kinds of fur coats are again in style and that the kind she can afford makes her more attractive, comfortable and glamorous than any cloth coat. The important thing, he declares, is that the industry now dresses and dyes approximately 20 million pelts each year and an average of ten cents fee on each skin would produce $2 million a year for national advertising.

Conservation officials in Wisconsin anticipate that the trapping crop will about equal that of last year. This year the muskrat and mink season is nine days shorter and the otter season is 15 days longer. Last season the muskrat crop totalled 823,639 pelts and it was valued at $617.729. The mink crop totalled 37,186 and the value was $470,687. Weasels, skunk and opposum were the other furs trapped.

Slower movement of standard ranch mink garments as compared to some of the mutations is causing many of the nation's leading breeders to seriously consider cutting down dark mink production still further, states Women's Wear Daily. Market sources trace the lag in dark mink garment volume to high prices for dark standard ranch mink of last season and this has placed dark mink in an unfavorable light as compared to mutations like pastels. Pastels apparently have made great strides in 1954. Dealers in New York report that while the supply of mink in their warehouses is very low there is a bigger carry-over of dark ranch mink than anyone knows. They corroborate reports that pastel has been the most wanted color all year.

At the United Mink Breeders' Association meeting in Milwaukee last month the expectations were that dark ranch mink production will decline at least 20 per cent in 1954-55. In addition pelting out is expected to cut ranch mink herds 30 to 35 per cent. A total of about 143,000 standard ranch mink pelts were produced last year but only slightly more than 7,000 breeders held over. Last season's dark mink production represented a decline of about 22 per cent. The immediate effect of decreased production was to keep auction price levels strong all last season. The fur trade was willing to pay higher prices because dark mink had proved itself a wanted fashion item. That it is no longer so popular remains to be proven. With the trade now in the height of the coat season many observers are looking for improved turnover of dark mink coats.

Great Lakes Mink Association averaged more than $17 per pelt for its dark mink output last season. Royal pastels on the other hand brought $25.70 per pelt and every other major mutation was worth more than the standards on the market. For example, silverblus averaged $21; ceruleans over $32, Lutetias over $27. The facts are clear. Average mutations bring from $4 to $15 more per pelt than standards. No one knows this better than the ranchers and that is probably the main reason why many of them are pelting their darks. In addition some ranchers contend that it is difficult to get higher prices for dark mink because skin buyers tend to be more critical of slight defects in dark than in mutations . . . . . Our own observation on the above is that there will always be a market for dark mink and if the big ranchers in the United States continue to decrease their production of dark mink it will be much to the advantage of Maritime breeders.

A considerable increase in the production of mutation mink together with an estimated 10 per cent drop in the standard mink yield on Norwegian ranches is reported by Oslo Fur Auction, Ltd. The following are the expected quantities for the coming auction season: Mink, standards — 129,000; pastels — 73,000; platinum — 39,000; sapphires — 5,000; white — 1,000. Fox, blue — 30,000; silver and platina — 20,000. The production of blue fox will run fairly close to last year's figures. Because of the demand for this item many breeders are expected to keep pups for breeding purposes, thus curtailing the quantity offered at auction. Platina and silver fox breeders are said to be culling out poor animals in an effort to improve color and fur quality. In silver fox particularly, the trend favors darker shades. At the first auction in Oslo Dec. 8-9, the following quantities will be offered: standard mink, 25,000 to 30,000; pastel, 8,000 to 10,000; platinum and sapphire, 7,000; blue fox 5,000; silver and platina, 2,000.

Three breeders in Minnesota are advertising Rose Mink. They claim to have the largest herd, numbering 1,661, of this much admired new mutation. Rose Mink closely resembles buff but is different genetically. For fall delivery they offer a few choice pairs and half bloods at he following prices: $700. for one pair of pure bloods and one pair of half bloods.

In contrast to the early part of these notes where predictions were made that dark mink is not so fashionable, there is a long article in the October Black Fox Mazagine and Modern Mink Breeder, New York, entitled, Fur Trade Optimistic on Outlook for Natural Dark Mink. The author is David Loffman and he is the enthusiastic representative of the Great Lakes Mink Association.

Canadian fur ranchers will pelt 46 per cent fewer foxes but 12 per cent more mink this season than in 1953-54, according to the Canadian Statistics Bureau forecast. The 1954-55 pelt production from ranch-raised fox is estimated at 6,8000 as compared with 12,700 in the last season, and from ranch raised mink at 758,600 as compared with 623,200. The higher mink yield anticipated for 1954-1955 will result from an expected 75 per cent increase in pastel pelts to 204,600 from 117,100; an expected 32 per cent increase in other mutation pelts to 94,800 from 67,300, and an expected 28 per cent increase in platinum pelts to 139,300 from 109,100.

On the other hand, the production of standard mink pelts is forecast at 257,600 —a drop of 22 per cent from 329,700 taken last season. At the start of this year there were fewer standard and platinum mink on Canadian fur farms but more pastel and other mutation mink. However, more kits of all kinds except standard were raised this year.

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

"TERYLENE"

In recent years research scientists have given to the world a great array of synthetic materials. Among these have been a number of good textile fibres that have been extruded from spinnerets, finer than those produced by silk worms or coarse for heavier duties; these have been spun and woven into fabrics that have replaced many insect, animal plant fibres, not only because some can be produced more cheaply, but largely because of their strength, weight, and resistance to wear, acids, electricity and chemicals.

Mr. John Whinfield, a British chemist, while working, during World War II, with an apparatus worth about 50c, discovered that the sticky, plastic mess he made developed into s lid fibre when cooled to 260 degrees C. or 500 degrees F. This material was chemically known as polyethylene terephthalate, and, using the first three letters of the last part of its name and the last five letters of the first part of its chemical name, he called it "Terylene".

Terylene is known as a versatile fibre, and after years of testing, the Imperial Chemical Industries of Canada, convinced that it will supply a growing demand for outstanding fibre materials, have now a twenty million dollar plant nearing completion at Millhaven, Ontario, that will have a capacity of eleven million pounds of "Terylene" yarn per annum.

* * *

This new material can be made into a greater variety of fabrics than most fibers, since it can be made in two forms that are physically different, though they are identical chemically. When produced in one form as a continuous thread, it has the feel of silk; and evening gowns, blouses and fine lingerie are warm and comfortable when woven from this yarn. They assume graceful, flowing lines when made from this material. This filament yarn will be available in the denier range from 250 to 25 for heavy draperies to the most delicate lingerie.

In the other form, Terylene may be produced to appear much like sheep's wool as a staple fiber which can be spun into yarn. It then has a soft wool-like feel, and may be used for such apparel as socks, suits, coats and sweaters. It can also be used as fine knitting yarn for many purposes.

Canadian dress designers have been experimenting with Terylene fabrics of different types: Velvets, satins, taffetas and brocades made from suitings of the new fibre blended with wool as well as those made of 100% Terylene. A Canadian designer is quoted as saying: "Terylene intrigues me because it has the value of a much more expensive fabric."

* * *

This glamorous material has almost three times the strength of wool; it is almost unstretchable and is durable for children's play suits and men's socks. It has a remarkable ability to retain creases, and resists crushing in men's and women's clothes. Terylene does not readily crease except under extreme heat. Once the crease or pleat is applied, however, in the proper place under controlled conditions, it stays in until the material has similar heat and pressure applied to it again.

It is claimed that when clothing is made and "heat set" by the manufacturers, the pleats and intentional creases will stay in, and that normal washings and ironing will neither shrink nor crease them more than two per cent in either direction. Terylene is as strong wet as dry, and any soap or detergent can be used in washing this material. It is better, however, to wash it apart from other fabrics, and by hand.

During intensive testing of Terylene in industrial research laboratories to determine its resistance to heat, chemicals and acids, it was subjected to being baked in an oven for seven days at 300 degrees F. and found to retain four-fifths of its original strength. Because of its strength when wet and the fact that it does not mildew nor rot, it will be a great boon to those that use sails and ropes on boats and aboard ships.

* * *

Among the industrial uses already found for Terylene is in the winding of electric motors, where as a bias-cut, varnished tape it has been used, because of its high resistance to electric currents, as insulating material. The fact that it absorbs very little water and does not burn readily are also important properties in connection with fibers used for insulation in the electrical industry.

Its remarkable inertness to chemical action makes it very useful as a filtering material in the manufacture of chemicals and dyestuffs. Being unaffected by bleaching agents, it is useful for bags and covers in handling laundry.

Because Terylene has a combination of both chemical and physical properties not found in other fibres, it will be particularly useful in a very wide variety of types of manufactured cloth. Its resistance to sunlight and rot and its great strength when either dry or wet make it ideal for marine use in sails, hawsers, ropes and lines.

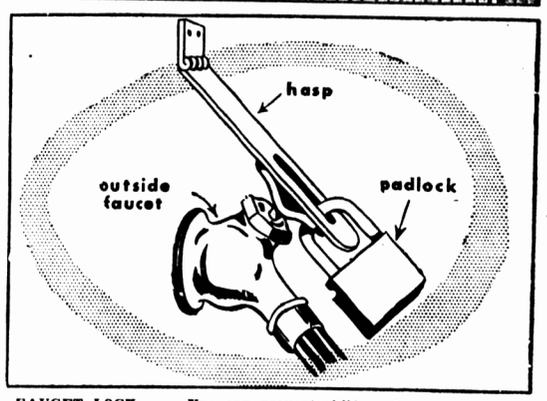
Fire hose manufacturers recently were asked to provide a high-pressure fire hose that would work efficiently more than a mile from the source of water. Specifications required this hose to have a working pressure of 600 pounds per square inch and a bursting strength of 1,000 pounds per square inch, for use by the British Columbia Forestry Commission in fighting forest fires. These requirements exceed convention hose now used in forest fires, and Terylene was chosen as the best material because of its tough resistant fiber.

Some of the looms used by manufacturers today require strong, abrasion resistant fibres, not subject to change when under different moisture conditions, in order that, once started, there be few delays or shut-downs during the weaving of large orders of cloth. The filament yarn of Terylene will meet this requirement, for either the warp or the woof of the cloth.

Besides the Canadian Terylene plant at Millhaven, Ontario, said to be the largest in the world, two other plants of equal size are under construction in England. The one at Wilton, England is expected to be in production next summer.

SPECIAL Perfection ICE CREAM Orange & Chocolate Ripple

FENCE LINES



FAUCET LOCK . . . You can prevent children from opening an outdoor water faucet by attaching a hasp to the wall above the faucet with bolts and expansion sleeves, so placed as to allow the hasp slot to line up with one of the openings in the handle of the faucet.

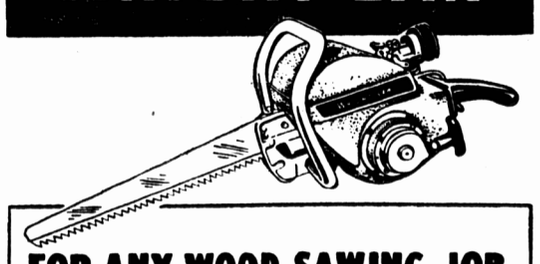
SHORTHORNS

The annual meeting of the P. E. I. Shorthorn Breeders Association will be held in City Hall, Saturday, November 27, 8:00 p.m.

LYLE BOSWELL, President.

A. H. MUTCH, Secretary.

it's the WRIGHT SAW



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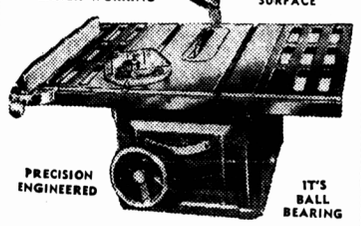

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Extensions for above — Pair 9.45

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Handles stock to 2⅛". Big roomy table 15"x 13" tilts to 45 degrees; calibrated guide for accurate mitering, ripping and cross-cutting. Oilite bearings. Fast-cutting 7" combination blade 18.95

12" JIG SAW
12" throat; overall length 18"; table 8¾" square tilts to 45 degrees. Self-lubricating cam action and automotive bronze bearings. Depth of cut 2". With blade guide, hold-down and V-pulley. Worth $17.50 11.85

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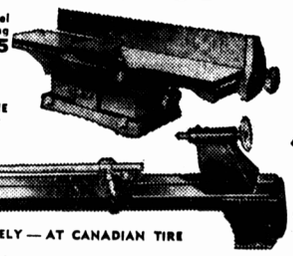

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The undermentioned animals owned by ANDREW B. and FRED T. MacRAE appear in the November issue of the Canadian Ayrshire Review—

		PLACING
305 Day Division Mature Class	FAIRVUE BRENDA 10858 lbs. MILK—448 lbs. FAT	19th in class of 66
365 Day Division Senior 3 yrs. old	FAIRVUE LORENA 13457 lbs. MILK—566 lbs. FAT	FIRST in class of 8
365 Day Division Junior 2 yrs. old	FAIRVUE MARIGOLD 10605 lbs. MILK—474 lbs. FAT	FIRST in class of 9
305 Day Division Junior 2 yrs. old	FAIRVUE NINA 9882 lbs. MILK—400 lbs. FAT	FIRST in class of 14
305 Day Division Junior 2 yrs. old	FAIRVUE BONIT A 9333 lbs. MILK—397 lbs. FAT	SECOND in class of 14

The above records were made on twice-a-day milking. The entire herd is fed on SHUR-GAIN custom mixed at our mill in Winsloe. The above records were obtained by feeding home-grown grains mixed with 32% Sweetened SHUR-GAIN Dairy Concentrate on the basis of 1 lb. of 16% Ration for every 3 lbs. Milk produced. Good breeding and good feeding gave the results above.

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