Timely Notes

Silver Fox And Mink Farming

With the possible exception of wild mink, opening prices of the new crop of wild furs are expected to be unchanged to somewhat softer than last year's starting levels. This is the consensus of opinion of leading fur brokers and dealers in New York as they look ahead to the arrival of the first 1954-55 pelts next month and thereafter. The best information is that the United States crop of wild furs such as mink, raccoon and muskrat is likely to be less than that of the 1953-54 season. For one thing, drought conditions in the middle west and past summer and early fall have worked against an abundance of fur bearers. Also prevailing prices are still considered unattractive by trappers and are expected to continue to deter trapping to a great extent. Furthermore, some of the big fur collectors in the country reportedly are not encouraging trappers to increase their take of pelts as collectors found it rough to make a profit last season and many still have inventories of last year's skins.

Market sources in New York believe that muskrat will open at about the same level as last year's initial prices. Some predict there will be an important European demand for Wisconsin rats at about last year's prices, $1. to $1.10 for large and extra large; 60 to 65 cents for medium and small medium. Prices for New England rats are expected to be slightly lower than last year's opening of $1.35 to $1.40. Europeans who consumed great quantities of United States mink last season concentrate on the darker colors, it is said. Activity in domestic furs in the local market has declined in the last ten days probably because of unseasonably hot weather and the Jewish holidays. However, good early October business has put some fur handlers well ahead in volume for the month.

The marketing of the Alaska seal skins and the conservation of these fur bearers has always engaged considerable attention from W. Chester S. McLure and he was looked on as an expert in our Parliament at Ottawa. He will be interested — and probably knows — that the estimated average price of Alaska seal skins in this year's auction is expected to drop 10 to 20 per cent below that of the April sale. Most guesses on the amount of the anticipated decline hit around a figure of 15 per cent lower than the average of $91.93.

By colors, following is the analysis: Blacks — the consensus is that this color will decline 5 to 10 per cent below the April average of $101.59; Mataras — the widest decline is predicted in this color and estimates of 15 to 20 per cent were made. For one reason it is observed that there will be more skins put on the block, also there is an increased number of medium skins offered. Safaris — buyers forecast a decline of 20 to 25 per cent in this color. The amount of skins offered is slightly more than six months ago when the average price was $62.36. Another factor that will affect the sale of seal skins is the popularity of blonde furs with the younger women. Sheared raccoon and beaver in all lengths are gaining in popularity.

British made garments will be sold for the first time this year in two American retail stores of Swears and Wells, Ltd., fur manufacturing retail chain located in Syracuse and Buffalo. Most of the garments will retail at popular and medium priced levels. A full length muskrat coat will be sold at the equivalent of $120 and a 3-tiered Platina Fox stole for $64. There will also be a small group of full length persian lamb coats and mink jackets.

Since the above was written with reference to the fur sales the latest edition of Women's Wear Daily, New York, has headlined this . . . Fur seal average falls 13.6 per cent as blacks show biggest declines; 10,057 blacks declined 13.8 per cent. All sizes and groups averaged $76.-92, a decline of 13.6 per cent. The South African government Cape of Good Hope Fur sales offered by Fouke Fur Company, St. Louis, Mo., brought an average of $26.64, a decline of 16 per cent from the average price of $31.70 at the April sale.

The Canadian Fur Auction Company (Quebec) Ltd., will hold their first auction sale of the new season in December 3rd with a fresh crop of mutation mink. The sale will also include a special offering of Alaska fur seals.

A big campaign is being waged by thoughtful men connected with the mink industry to prevent the dumping on the market of casualty and very poor grade pelts. Doc Collins, editor of the National Fur news, October number, again writes on that subject . . . . ." Every year, United States mink ranchers sell about 100,000 casualty pelts. That's roughly $300,000 worth or a small price for the tremendous damage to the prestige of mink. Evidence of how seriously the National Board regards the menace of casualty pelt sales is clearly shown by the fact that more time was spent in this discussion than on any other matter to come before the National Board's annual meeting in Washington.

"A casualty pelt is one taken between April 1 and October 30. About one-fifth of the annual valume of 500,000 casualty and scrub pelts are sold by U. S. mink ranchers; the rest are imports. The question might be asked, with Jap mink, for example, selling at $2.34 average, is it fair to tell our ranchers to burn pelts which they can sell for twice that much? The answer, of course, is, yes. While imports of scrub mink pelts are definitely harmful, this is no excuse for the ranchers to worsen the situation by adding their junk to them."

A complete breeding guide and charts on production of Palomino and Pearl types is being prepared by John Kokolsky, fur farm supervisor for the Province of Alberta, Canada. This booklet shows a genetic breakdown of all possible combinations for production of Pearl types. Litter expectancy plus ratios are completely listed to eliminate all guesswork. It lists especially those combinations which are most desirable and advantageous. This booklet will prove a valuable aid to those just starting with Palominos as well as those who have established herds. A limited number of copies will be made available to interested ranchers by writing to J. Kokolsky, Capitol Fur Farms, 5304 109 St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

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Milwaukee Plans To Add 10,500 Seats To Stadium

MILWAUKEE, (AP)—First steps towards a third straight National league attendance record for the Milwaukee Braves were taken Thursday with proposals for adding 10,500 seats to County Stadium.

Action to increase the capacity from its present 43,110 to between 51,600 and 53,000, will be taken next Wednesday by the Milwaukee county board. The discrepancy is due to the number of bleacher seats to be sacrificed by the installation of grandstand chairs.

The Braves rocked the baseball world a year ago in their first season out of Boston by setting a league attendance record of 1,826,-397. Last season the stadium capacity was boosted by about 7,500 seats—and fans responded by shattering the year-old mark with a new figure of 2,131,388 paid admissions.

Canadian Plowing Champion

Joseph Tran, 38-year-old dairy farmer from Claremont, Ont., is 1954 Canadian plowing champion. He scored 83 of a possible 100 points in national competition at Breslau, Ont. Second was Ivan McLaughlin, 50, of Stouffville, Ont. Both will represent Canada at world plowing championships next year at Sweden.

Former U.S. Football Star Likes The Canadian Game

By JIM BASTABLE
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO, (CP) — Sleepy Jim Crowley likes Canadian football with a couple of reservations.

"I go for Canada's game," he said in an interview. "I wouldn't be surprised to see the National Football League and the Canadian leagues give and take a little and some day end up with the same rules."

The 51-year-old Crowley, a member of Notre Dame's famous Four Horsemen with Elmer Layden, Harry Stuhldreher and Don Miller in the early '20s, is a commentator with NBC on telecasting Big Four games to the United States.

LIKES THE ROUGE

After watching nearly a season of Canadian professional football, Jim made these observations:

"The rouge is good. The single point eliminates most tie games. They should adopt it in the U. S.

"The extra 12 yards in width in the Canadian field makes a big difference; gives teams more room in which to run or kick. The deeper end zones are made to order for touchdown passes."

The Canadian gridiron is 110 yards long, 65 yards wide and has a 25-yard end zone. The U. S. field: 100 yards long, 53 yards wide and a 10-yard end zone.

PREFERS FOUR DOWNS

"I don't particularly go for the three downs," Crowley said.

"They limit a quarterback to a pattern in his strategy. If he doesn't get far on a ground play, you count on a second-down pass. He may cross you up, but not often."

Jim would also like to see unlimited blocking in Canada.

"Don't get the idea I'm running down Canadian football. These are just some observations. It's a great game with plenty of crowd appeal.

When Crowley talks about football he is inevitably reminiscent. He still remembers the day in 1924 he thought he scored a notable "touchdown." The only catch was he didn't have the ball.

"I went over from the three-yard line but I dropped the ball before I crashed over."

"That's how he got the Sleepy Jim tag.

Brooklyn, now part of the city of New York, started as the Dutch colony of Breuckelen in 1636.

Four More Soldiers For Truce Team

OTTAWA (CP) — Four more Canadian soldiers left Canada by air Friday for duty with the Canadian military truce teams in Indochina. This will increase to about 150 the number of Canadian personnel, both military and civilian, in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Three will join the security guard at Hanoi. They are Cpl. E. W. Landry of Moncton, N.B.; Bdr. G. T. Gillingham of New Waterford, N.S.; and Bdr. S. E. Smith of Point St. Charles, Que.

The fourth soldier, Cpl. G. A. Robinson Cornwall, Ont., will be employed with the administrative staff at Saigon.

WESTERN STAMP

Farm and oil-well scenes will feature a Canadian five-cent stamp to be issued in 1955 on the golden jubilee of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Where Plebian Dogs are Barred

From London (Eng.) Bureau of Thomson Newspapers

LONDON — At the exclusive Kennel Club, in the heart of gay Piccadilly, the pedigrees of canine aristocrats are compiled and guarded more zealously than those of kings and barons. Nearly 80,000 high-born dogs are registered and many new names are added daily.

Family histories are divided into hundreds of different breeds and varieties. They are hidden away in hundreds of steel cabinets, meticulously card indexed by a staff of 40 men and women working unceasingly to keep the records up to date.

Both the pedigree of a registered dog and the names of his masters are listed. Changes of ownership must be notified promptly and the fee for each change is five shillings.

To the question "Why so much fuss?" an official pointed to the Kennel Club rules now printed in the catalogue of every recognized dog show in Britain.

"No dog can be exhibited unless it is registered," the official told me. "You see, there comes a time in the history of every sport when rules become necessary in the interests of that sport. And dog showing has become a very popular national sport."

For years, he said, lack of supervision led to frauds and irregularities at dog shows. There was no system of registration by a central authority, no code of rules to bind organizers and exhibitors, no means of preventing promoters from securing entry fees and evading payment of prize money.

Dog showing deteriorated into such a racket that honest exhibitors would not have anything to do with it. Even if a dog won recognition there was nothing to prevent inferior dogs from being hired out for stud purposes under the same name.

Thus, unscrupulous people with good dogs could keep them winning indefinitely by changing their names and pedigrees at different shows.

And although faking is rare today, judges still keep a watchful eye for dyed hairs or ears cropped to get the correct carriage — a cruel practice made illegal in Britain in 1895.

The Kennel Club was founded in 1873 for the use of dog owners throughout the United Kingdom. Its two-legged membership today numbers some 200 men and 130 women. But they keep to separate club rooms and the social facilities are limited.

Dog registration in the Kennel Club reached its peak of 120,000 in 1947, dropped to 79,000 in 1952, climbed up to 79,347, in 1953 and this year is expected to exceed the present 80,000 mark.

The club takes an active part in the annual Kruft's Show held every February at Olympia and on these occasions large numbers of dog lovers attend from overseas countries, including Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

These overseas visitors are prevented from exhibiting their own dogs because of Britain's quarantine regulations that every dog arriving here must be kept in quarantine for six months.

Shooting Recalls Greenlease Case

SA. LOUIS (AP) — Joseph Costello, ex-convict who figured in the investigation of the missing Greenlease ransom money, was found shot and seriously wounded at his home Friday.

Police Lieut. Thomas Hale said Costello told officers he was cleaning his .38 calibre revolver about 4:30 a.m. when it accidentally discharged. The bullet ledged in his left chest above the heart.

Just before going to the city hospital for an emergency operation Costello in referring to his wound told a newspaper man:

"I wish it were three inches lower. I don't care what happens to me any more."

Mrs. Costello told police her husband had complained of not feeling well and had asked her to go downstairs at their home early Friday morning to get him a bowl of cereal.

Upon her return, Mrs. Costello said, she discovered him on the floor beside the bed, a revolver clutched in his hand.

The tip that led to the arrest of Carl Austin Hall and Mrs. Bonnie Heady, kidnap - killers of little Bobby Greenlease of Kansas City, came from a driver for cab company then headed by Costello.

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