



**HOPES TO BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**

Dr. Melsner, 4, of East River to recovery from a rare heart operation in Montreal Children's Hospital. The Halifax Junior Red Cross financed her trip to Montreal. Shown here with Dr. Wanda Jegier, the shy youngster's hope is to be home for Christmas.

**EAST BALTIC**

Mrs. Joseph McLean returned to her home at South Lake, having been a patient in the Souris Hospital for several weeks. Her host of friends, relatives and neighbours are glad to have her home again.

Irvin Baker, Lakeville, has again entered the Souris Hospital.

Rev. H. R. Bell, retired pastor, held services in the United Church, Mt. Stewart, during the past two Sundays and large congregations were in attendance.

Sympathy is extended to the family of the late Mr. Chester F. Reynolds who passed away at his home in Murray River, on November 29th.

Mrs. Camie MacVane returned to her home in Bothwell having spent some time visiting with relatives and friends in Charlottetown and Glen Valley.

A meeting of the Red Point Community Rink was held in the Red Point School Room on November 23rd. It was largely attended and several business matters attended to in preparation of getting the rink in order for the coming winter months.

Mr. Alvin Robertson, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Robertson, Kingsboro, is taking a carpenter on the Vocational School in Charlottetown.

Mrs. Alton Robertson, Munn's Road, was a recent visitor with Mr. and Mrs. S. E. MacLeod.

Uigg, she also spent some time field, spent the recent week-end at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ching, Red Point. Miss MacPhee taught school in the Red Point district for two years.

Mr. Beverly Morrow, Souris, was a recent week-end visitor with his grandparents, Rev. H. R. and Mrs. Bell, Red Point.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd McLean and son, Haddon of Kingsboro, were Sunday visitors with Mrs. McLean's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. MacLeod, Uigg.

Mrs. Clarence Ching and Miss Kay Ching, Black Pond, visited recently with Mrs. Ching's mother, Mrs. Albert Garrett, Bothwell, during the past week. Sympathy is extended the surviving members of his family.

viving members of the family of the late Mrs. J. P. Gordon, Charlottetown, who passed away in Montreal General Hospital during the past week.

Miss Peggy MacDonald returned to her home in East Point after spending several days in the Souris Hospital with a throat condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Llewellyn and Mr. Ray Machon, Montague, were Sunday visitors to Red Point and East Baltic.

The residents of St. Columba parish were saddened when the word spread around that one of their highly respected citizens, Mr. Paul McEachern, had passed peacefully away at his home following a lengthy illness. He was lovingly cared for by his daughter, Mrs. Dennis Rooney who at all times did all she could to make his last days comfortable. Mr. McEachern was a loyal and honest neighbour and friend to all. He was of a quiet and friendly disposition and he will not only be missed in the home, but in the community in which he served so well. His funeral was held at St. Columba Church on Dec. 3rd, and was largely attended. His wife predeceased him several years ago and sympathy is extended to the surviving members of his family.

**TIMELY NOTES ON FUR TOPICS**

England's fur skin production this year is expected to be 15 per cent larger than 1954. The total production in 1955 is expected to reach 92,000 standard mink skins, 22,000 silverblu and 36,000 pastels. The output of foxes is estimated to be about 6,000, the major part of which are blue foxes, a decline compared to last year.

**PRICES HIGHER**

A general increase in prices ranging from 5 to 15 per cent compared to last year's opening levels highlighted the special mink sale of Hudson's Bay Company in Montreal last week. Standards as well as mutations met with a very strong demand. United States buyers present in great numbers were active for fine quality goods. This was particularly notable in the EMBA Autumn Haze, where male skins went at prices fully 10 per cent above last year's December quotations.

The initial auction of Canada Mink Breeders' pelts under their new trade name of "Majestic Dark" met with a very good response. Males were up between 5 and 10 per cent with females also running higher than last year.

The company reported in part as follows: Standards, 85 per cent sold; pastels, 96 per cent sold; silverblu, 97 per cent and sapphire 98 per cent sold at strong prices. A small collection of whites was 96 per cent sold.

Cal Martin of St. Mary's, Ont., immediate past president of Canada Mink Breeders, who attended the auction, expressed satisfaction over levels reached. He stated that the total Canadian annual mink production now stands at over 600,000 skins with ranchers concentrating on better quality goods.

Top prices in Majestic dark skins was \$85 for extra dark males and \$17.75 for females. Other ranges were, extra dark males \$24 to \$35, females \$15.25 to \$17.75. Highest in unlabelled darks was \$24 for extra dark males and \$15 for extra dark, part dark females.

EMBA Autumn Haze (10,564 skins) went as high as \$45 for males and \$24.50 for females. Standards were \$25 to \$39 for males and females \$22.50. Breath of Springs were \$42 and \$44 for males, Standards \$41 to \$46.50, females ranged from \$23.50 to \$26.50. Pastels reached a ceiling of \$39.80 and \$22, in females. Silverblu and Breath of Spring males were \$27 to \$32, females \$18.75 to \$19. A small collection of Sapphires (990 skins) ranged from \$37.50 to \$48.50 for males and \$25 to \$27.50 for females.

The December opening auction of the Edmonton Fur Auction Sales, Ltd., took place on Dec. 5th. Buyer attendance was good with most purchases going to New York. Pastels and Sapphires were 96 per cent sold. In Silverblu the entire collection was moved. Standards were 88 per cent sold with males slightly easier and females unchanged.

In the Sapphire catalogue males reached a high of \$50 with average bundles running from \$37 to \$45. Females ran from \$15 to \$27. Pastel males reached a high of \$37, female \$21. Silverblu males sold mostly at \$22 to \$26, females \$14 to \$16. Better standard quality males moved at \$28 to \$30 with top females going for \$15 to \$16.50. Ordinary quality standard males were \$18 to \$21, females \$10.50 to \$12.50.

**Mission Band Holds Meeting**

The Mission Band of Trinity United Church held its Christmas meeting in MacKenzie hall, Montague, on Friday afternoon with Mrs. J. M. Fraser as leader. The president, Gillian Taylor, presided. The mothers, who were guests, were welcomed. A worship service was conducted by Sandra Stewart who led in prayer. She was assisted by PEGGY MacLeod who read the Christmas story from the gospel of St. Luke, chapter 2. Hymns sung were "Joy To The World" and "O, Little Town Of Bethlehem". The purpose was repeated. The offering and mite boxes were received and dedicated. Roll call was answered by all members except one who was unable to be present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. The report of the treasurer was received and a new slate of officers presented by the nominating committee. Installation of the following officers will take place at the next meeting: past president, Gillian Taylor; president, Marion Clark; vice-president, Wayne Stewart; secretary, Phyllis Nicholson; treasurer, Sandra Stewart.

Mrs. Fraser commended the group, while not large, for their regular attendance through the year, and the efficiency of the officers.

The following program was then presented: piano solo, Sandra Stewart; vocal solo, Florence MacDonald; exercise, Kenneth Gary and Wayne Stewart; piano solo, Peggy MacLeod; exercise "Christmas Gifts"; hymn, "We Love Our Church"; song, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

Mrs. Ethan Stewart and Rev. J. M. Fraser expressed appreciation of the program and commended the children on the fine manner in which they conducted the meeting. They were asked to present their program at the S. S. concert which will be held in the near future. Lunch was provided and served by the C. G. I. T. Games were then enjoyed.

**BLUE FOX DOWN**

At Oslo, Norway, auction December 6th blue fox prices were well below those of 1954. Of the 4,000 blue foxes offered 32 per cent was sold at an average price of 88 kroner (\$12.62), and a top of \$20.30. A total of \$13,500 blue fox pelts were offered over the three days sale with prices declining approximately 40 per cent under the opening levels of a year ago. Some 780 silver fox pelts were offered and 67 per cent sold. The average was 88 kroner (\$12.48).

**BUT MINK**

Everywhere we look mink seems to be on the up and up. At the Soudack Fur Auction sale held in Winnipeg last week practically all of the 20,000 mink were sold with mutations going at high prices than last year. Silverblu males sold from \$23 to \$28, females from \$12 to \$16.

Approximately 97 per cent of the 25,000 mink skins offered by Fromm Bros., Inc., at auction, in Hamburg, Wis., Dec. 7 were sold. Both buyers and auction officials estimated that silverblu were up to 10 to 15 per cent from the opening sale of last season, that sapphires were 5 per cent higher and that pastels were slightly stronger. No comparison, however, was made of darks because many of the larger ranches had not finished pelting. Pastels and assortments of both males and females brought a top of \$44 and most lots sold in the \$30 to \$32 range. Sapphire assortments brought a top of \$55 with most lots selling from \$25.50 to \$38.

A top for silverblu assortments was \$35.50 with most lots bringing between \$22 and \$29. Ranch mink male and female assortments brought a top of \$21 and the majority of lots sold in the \$14 to \$20.50 range. About 15 per cent of the offering consisted of Fromm-interest owned skins and the rest were for the most part from Wisconsin and Minnesota ranchers. Nothing was mentioned about silverblu or mutation fox pelts, but possibly they will be auctioned at a later sale. We have nothing positive to go by but we understand that Fromm Bros., who were at one time the world's largest breeders of silver fox with upwards of 50,000 annually, are still raising silver foxes but of course in much smaller quantity.

Later news from the Soudack Fur Auction sales in Winnipeg states that a nice collection of Sapphires sold at prices fully equal to the peak of last season. Better lots of males brought around \$50 with a top of \$54. Most females brought around \$25.00 and up to \$29.00. Some Breath of Spring males brought \$65.50 and Homos started at \$75. Standards were mostly commensurate and sold at about on a par with the levels during most of last season. Only a few Breath of Springs were offered, but they sold well, almost anything bringing a \$30 basis.

Last Wednesday and Thursday were auction sale days for Hudson's Bay Co., New York. They are featuring 40,000 EMBA mutation mink which they state is a fresh, attractive offering including many fine strings. Next week we hope to have a report on this auction.

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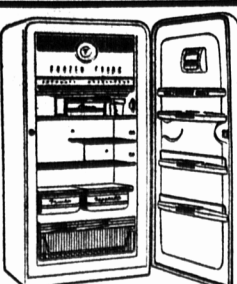
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