

Silver Fox And Mink Farming

A plan for Quebec province to reduce the royalty fees on several types of wild furs has been agreed upon by the provincial Government and is to go into effect November 1st. Ontario is expected to take similar steps at a later date this fall. As a result of this change the royalty on beaver in Quebec province is to be reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.00, while the levy on marten and fisher (hitherto \$1.50 and \$2.00 respectively) will be decreased by 50 per cent. Mink on the other hand will be increased from the present 50c to \$1.00. J. A. Tremblay, Director of Fur Service, Quebec Department of Fish and Game, states that "this revision of our royalties on wild furs will stimulate the fur industry in Quebec province. At present our province is the only one which has actually taken steps to alleviate some of the burdens which were hampering the trade. However, as our fees have been revised in complete understanding with Ontario, some move can be anticipated there also."

Royalty on bear skins is 25c; polar bear \$1.00; Lynx 25c; Lynx cat 10c; marten 75c; fisher \$1.00; wolf 25c; mink \$1.00; black fox 50c; blue fox 50c; cross fox 10c; silver fox 25c; white fox 75c; red fox 10c; raccoon \$1.10; muskrat 10c; squirrel 10c.

Fur fashion went to the races October 12th when 40 garments were displayed before a ladies day attendance at Belmont. The New York fashion presentation was arranged between race track officials and associated fur manufacturers. Ten models participated in the parade of furs which included sable, mink, ermine, Russian broadtail, beaver, Persian lamb, fox and opossum. The show started at noon with the models promenading through the turf and field enclosures. The models wore floor, restaurants under the grand stand and around the paddock area.

The Master Furrier's Guild of America has formed a special committee to support the current drive for issuance of a postage stamp honoring the fur industry. A committee will seek to persuade the United States post office department to issue a postage stamp commemorating the fur trade.

A despatch from New Orleans has the following: "Mink has buyers here hot under the collar. Mink concentration has ruined the fur business, 'one buyer moaned.' The mink people should at least keep inferior skins off the market. They could dispose of them better if they burned them or drowned them and keep the price healthy. Even if they controlled the quality the heavy promotion of mink has thrown the retail fur business off balance." Another buyer said he formerly had a nice volume of business in muskrat, squirrel, Jap mink and other pelts. Now many women will hold out for mink and buy cloth coats until they can afford mink. This does not make for profit in a fur department.

Ed Gold, a leading authority on furs writing in the latest issue of Women's Wear Daily, states that stores should increase their dollar volume by 15 to 20 per cent during the months of October and December. If this volume is not increased it will be the fault of the stores themselves. Buying offices are fairly satisfied this season that makers have made impressive strides in terms of price, style and color. With a better price structure imaginative styling and a wide variety of fashions shades plus the reduction in the excise tax there is a more favorable atmosphere for furs. That is the opinion of almost all the buyers. But the retailer must do his part and by publicity and proper displays create demand.

Another buyer notes the changed attitude towards the tax. Today a store only has to sell a garment once. Last March stores had to do

HISTORIC TERRITORY
The African Gold Coast first became known through Portuguese navigators in the 14th century.

International Plowing Match In Ontario



Biggest and best of all international plowing competitions is the description of the one now being held at Breslau, near Kitchener, Ont. It is the 41st international match staged in Canada, and it is expected that 250,000 persons will have watched the matches, inspected the farm equipment and joined in the festivities before the fair closes. This scene shows the tent town being erected on the site of the fair, which extends over parts of ten farms. To keep traffic moving, a Bailey bridge has been erected for pedestrians over a busy highway.

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

ORURO, BOLIVIA

We had a real turn out of friends to see us off in an airplane at Cochabamba at 9.25 a.m., on the morning of September 3rd. The children came with their parents to see the big plane come in from Santa Cruz, and stop for only fifteen minutes before it was again on its way over the Cordillera Mountains to Aruro, a distance of 70 miles. The trip, as predicted, was quite rough. We seemed very close to Mt. Huailas, which is 18,045 feet high.

It was quite a climb to get up, but only a short glide to come down to Oruro, which is on the Altiplano at over 12,000 feet. As we approached the city we saw that it is built around three sides of a brown hill about 12,000 feet high, in which are located many rich silver and tin mines. Most of its streets are level except those on the sides of the hill.

It is on a spear of this hill that our Reekie College has been built, with ample room for play grounds and homes for our missionaries. It is named in honour of Rev. A. B. Reekie, a pioneer who started his work in Oruro, and later chose and bought the site for a school, realizing the need of education in Bolivia many years before the school was opened in 1924.

We had an opportunity to speak, through an interpreter, to the boys and girls of the college, on September 5th, during a morning session. That afternoon all school and churches in Oruro were closed by order of the Health Department, as typhus fever had broken out in the jail. We heard there were 47 cases in the city on Oct. 9th, and when we left the next day for La Paz, there were 56 cases and there had been 9 deaths.

On September 6th, Rev. Wm. Sturgis drove me out in his truck to the mining town of Machacamarca, where we visited in a number of the homes of the people. The highway, which parallels the railway, was almost a dead level for more than 20 miles. It is a bleak, barren plain. For about one-third of the distance it was covered with water. I had noted the large area of water from the airplane, and had asked if it was a large lake. It turned out to be quite shallow, and at some seasons was dry. So far as we could learn, no one lives on the plain, nor have any crops been grown there. The only living things that seemed to thrive on it were sea gulls which gathered in large flocks on some of the dry areas.

The houses at Machacamarca were adobe, with thatched roofs. In one, we entered through a small patio; this had a locked gate and a dog guarding it. There were pigs, fowls and guinea pigs in a very small space. The husband was away working in the mining plant, and the wife and a little girl were mixing feed for the animals. There

was a high, cold wind that day. During their winter of July, August and September they have these very bitter high winds, which sometimes amount to veritable hurricanes. We saw many small whirlwinds that picked up and carried the dust aloft for considerable distances.

On September 8th we drove out past the airport into the foothills, with materials for a new church at Cala Cala. We were told thatcala was Spanish for stone, and we certainly travelled through miles of stony areas. Quite a number of areas were walled about with great stone walls. Some areas were cultivated, and we learned that the people are all free Indians, who own their farms, so that they will not be affected by the Agrarian Reform Act of August 2nd, 1953. They are a very independent people and live very much to themselves.

Later that evening we drove with more materials to a church that is being built by the people of South Oruro. The adobe walls were up, the rafters were on and the men were laying tile on the roof. We learned that the only outside assistance these people have received had been the windows, a gift from the lady missionaries in Bolivia. The church is on a corner site on a w'e street, where quite a few eucalyptus trees have been planted.

In loading quite a few benches onto the truck to place them in a locked building over night, we worked as if we were at an ordinary altitude, so that the next

morning we had a brief illness that seemed unaccountable from anything eaten. We learned then of one man, new to the country, who worked strenuously for the first week on the altiplano in getting settled, and was laid up for three weeks before he was able to work again.

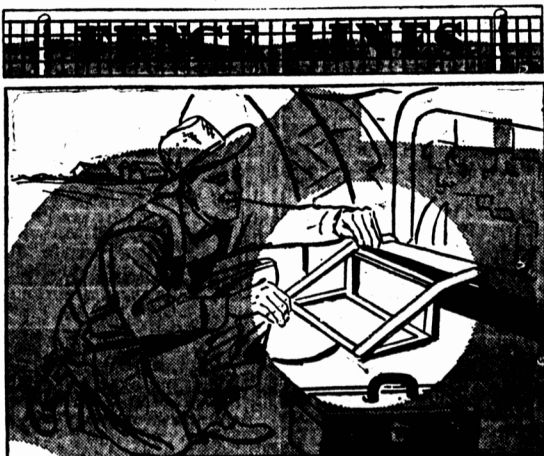
We went up the steep hill to the statue of Christ, about 1,500 feet above and behind Oruro, but below where the city reservoir is located, and got a number of pictures of this city of over 30,000 people. About half way up we were shown where applicants for automobile and truck drivers' licenses have to demonstrate their ability to take sharp curves at different speeds and turn around on a steep hill area where there is little more than enough room for two cars to pass, without even stones on the outside to protect one from going over a cliff, where to go over would mean at least the destruction of the vehicle, if the driver could jump clear.

Early in December, 1952, the Bolivian Government nationalized its tin mines by placing them under a government run corporation known as the Bolivian Mining Corporation. The famous tin mines in or near Oruro have for years been responsible for about 50 per cent of Bolivia's revenue and 80 per cent of her foreign exchange. The tin mines had been dominated for years by the three companies that were expropriated: Patino, Aramayo and Hochschild.

Simon I. Patino of Cochabamba started with an abandoned tin mine about fifty years ago, and through the world hunger then for tin, and the peon labour available in Bolivia, he acquired an annual income that was said to exceed that of the Government of Bolivia. He became the Bolivian Minister to France, having formed

a world cartel in tin. His fortune was estimated at one billion American dollars. He died in 1947, and his heirs now live in other countries.

The tin mines employ over 35,000 Bolivian Indians, who work 8 hours per day and are paid about \$1.00 per day to dig the tin from the granite rocks of the Andes, almost two miles above sea level. The tin companies have not accepted the indemnification offered by the Government. Most of the so-called "tin barons" live in luxury in other countries. Many Bolivians believed that the tin



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companies were draining the resources of their country and were not investing their profits at home. They united behind this government which has undertaken a number of social improvements and has built a modern highway from Cochabamba to Santa Cruz, the capital of the "Yungas," that marvellously productive area of Bolivia, where one man, just returned, told me and others that living conditions of temperature and food enabled him to live on \$100.00 per year. When the area is cleared of malaria and other tropical diseases, it will be a great national asset.

On Sept. 10th, we took a noon plane for the trip of 120 miles to La Paz. The round trip to Cochabamba, Oruro and back to La Paz was 345 miles, and it cost only \$6.74 American money or 9.770 Bs.

RELIGIOUS CLAUSE

The constitution of Argentina provides that the president and vice president must be Roman Catholics and Argentine by birth.

TIP OF THE WEEK

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TIP NO. 11

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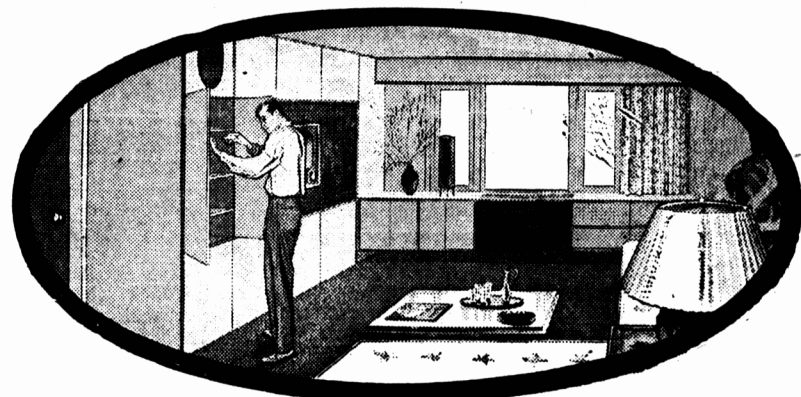
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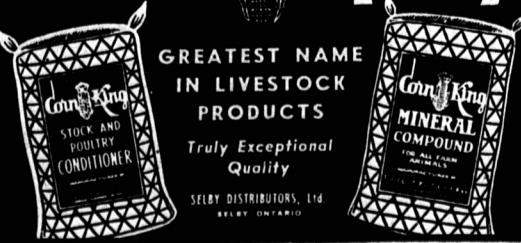
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ATTENTION FARMERS

The attention of all farmers is directed to the provisions of the Prince Edward Island Potato Production Act passed in 1947.

Section 1 of this Act states that "no person shall plant potatoes in the Province of Prince Edward Island unless the seed used is of the class Foundation or Certified as determined by the official inspection carried out by the Plant Protection Division, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture."

Now is the proper time to make sure that you have your supply of seed for planting next Spring. Do not wait until the quantity of seed is in short supply and be disappointed. Procure your seed now.

P. E. I. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE