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ACROSS THE ISLAND

P.E.I. Live Fox Show Recalls Better Days

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MEMORIES OF brighter days were crowding in on spectators and exhibitors at this week's provincial live fox show. The show drew upwards of 200 foxes and "some of the tops were good" in the opinion of Show Judge Parvin Cass of Summerside. But it was a far cry from the day when the fox was supreme and the furry beauties were discussed in hushed tones of awe and wonder.

Today the foxes are barely paying for their food. They have decreased in numbers and in prestige and more people are discarding them each year. Last year a flurry indicated a return to popularity and reasonably good prices. But that has faded now, although one or two of the female spectators suggested to us that milady is returning to the long haired fur of animals like the fox.

Elsewhere on this page we have a picture of the cairn, near Alberton, erected to the memory of the men who founded the industry here on P.E.I. We have often heard men discuss what might have happened had Island foxmen kept the industry in the province instead of selling breeding stock to other lands. But that now is in the realm of "might have been" and discussion is pointless.

Boom In Mink Is Going To Last

WE TALKED to William MacFarlane, Montreal, who is placing the mink classes here this week. "The industry is booming and it's going to stay that way. We have the middle class people buying the product now and there are an awful lot of them. The fox people erred in not catering to them. But we're not going to make that mistake" MacFarlane said.

There are 14 million in the world now, he said. A million to a million and one-quarter are in Canada. Perhaps there are four million more in the United States, he said. And Prince Edward Island produces animals that rank with the best, he enthused.

Old Rolling Mill Is Recalled

I REMEMBER that in my boyhood days the name of Ives Rolling Mill brought praise and appreciation wherever it was mentioned. The flour it ground from Island wheat was a bit better the neighbours thought. It built up a real reputation back in those days.

This week we talked to Everett Ives at North Tryon, a member of the family who ran the old rolling mill for many years. Now 84, Mr. Ives can look back on many interesting developments.

The first rolling mill on the Island was put in by Charles Ives back about 1902. It grew in popularity and for many years it ran 24 hours a day to handle the wheat that came from "as far as the other side of Charlottetown".

Prior to that Island wheat was ground into flour on the old stone grinding wheels. They did an adequate job for their time. But the "steel rolls" did a much finer job and became deservedly popular.

But it took some time for people to change from the stone grinders to the rolling mill and "we kept the both of them for a time", Mr. Ives recalled

The Ives mill was built originally by Richard Dawson, who came from Ireland. It was turned over to Thomas Ives, grandfather of Everett, who finally discarded the rolling mill about 1938 when "only seven bushels of wheat came to be ground". The fertilizer ruined the land for growing wheat, Mr. Ives recalled.

The rolling mill ground the wheat into flour, middlings, shorts and bran and Mr. Ives recalled that people of that day made a very tasty porridge out of a mixture of all four of them though many people at that time used ground oatmeal as the main porridge ingredient.

Everett Ives incidentally is the father of Mrs. Charles Roberts, whose duck farm story is told on these pages today

Road Signs Are Hallowe'en Victims

ROAD SIGNS virtually disappeared since Hallowe'en. At least that's the way we found them in recent travels through Prince County and a part of Queens. We talked about the development last night to Gordon White, deputy minister of highways and found that it's nothing new. Destroying road signs is an annual occurrence here on Prince Edward Island. It even happens at other times of the year, Mr. White said. The only other part of Canada where we find the same thing prevailing is in Cape Breton, he added.

Road signs are so valuable to visitors, and even to our own people who travel to various parts of the province, that we cannot understand the mentality of people who destroy them

Drought Curtails Fall Rye Operation

SOMETIME AGO we talked of the drought which hit this province and held up plowing operations in many areas. Now we find that it has almost eliminated the fall rye program started several years ago by Jack Keenan and Leo McIsaac of Mermaid.

"We only were able to plant 30 acres this fall", Mr McIsaac said a few days ago. By the time that the land was fit to plow, the season had advanced so far that it was too late to sow the rye, he said. Normally some 200 acres would be seeded, he said.