

SEPTEMBER 20, 1952

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

A small offering of ranch mutation mink drew an attendance at Eastwood & Holt, Inc., New York, last week. An ordinary collection of 4,502 ranch mink was reported 85 per cent sold with prices firm. Top price was \$21.50 for males and \$11.50 for females. The mutation offering was in very strong demand and 95 per cent sold at levels of 15 per cent above July prices. Tops for raw mutations with pastels \$45 for males, \$20 for females; platinum, \$41.50 for males, \$21.50 for females; Stewart platinum, \$46 for males, \$22 for females. The strength of the sale was accounted for by the fact that few mink skins remain in the hands of dealers. In addition manufacturers now entering the coat season are showing interest in coat bundles. Varieties of the finer types of skins are said to be quite scarce in the market.

The mink pelt yield will be made up of 327,700 standard, 87,300 silverblue, 62,300 pastel and 21,600 other mutations. There was an estimated 12,700 adult foxes on farms at the beginning of 1952. That is 44.1 per cent fewer than the 22,700 on farms at January 1st, 1951, and an estimated 219,400 adult mink or 7.8 per cent less than the 238,000 on farms a year earlier. The number of fox pelts raised in 1952 is estimated at 19,700, 25 per cent fewer than the 39,600 raised in the previous year. The number of mink kits raised in 1952 is estimated at 532,600 or 10.5 per cent fewer than the 583,600 raised in 1951.

The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company (Que.) Ltd. auction collection of 14,344 mink which is described as "not too attractive" reached a top of \$24 for 1 part 2, extra dark males, which ranged upwards from \$17; females were \$10.25 to \$12.25; pastel mink brought \$31.50 to \$36 for 1 part 2 males; \$15 to \$24.50 for mixed and \$17.50 to \$18.50 for females. Silverblue mink were \$21 to \$24.50 for 1 part 2 males, \$18 to \$26 for mixed and \$16.25 for females. Breath of Spring mixed brought \$22 to \$27.50. Mixed sold with strong demand and an advance of 10 per cent. Pastel mink was 100 per cent sold with strong demand; silverblue mink 86 per cent sold.

The Canadian Bureau of Statistics announces from Ottawa that there will be a sizeable reduction in the pelt production on Canadian fur farms in the 1952-53 season. Output of standard silver and new type fox pelts is estimated at 23,700 or 43.3 per cent below the 1951-1952 season estimate of 40,800 pelts. Production of standard and mutation mink pelts is estimated at 498,900 or 5.2 per cent below the 1951-1952 season estimate of 526,200. Of the 1952-53 season fox pelt yield, 17,200 will be standard silver as compared with 33,900 a season earlier and 6,500 will be the new type as compared with 7,900 the previous season.

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million silver fox and that figure may be correct as Fromm's could be counted on for 40,000 and their cousins, the Nieman's, for an additional 40,000, while there were countless smaller breeders in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Michigan came next but other states were only small in a silver fox way. No figures have been released as far as we are aware, but we believe it would not be any greater than that of Canada. At the recent sale in Montreal, George Callbeck, manager of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, was present and he said there was an almost total lack of interest in silver fox. Just a few types of skins were wanted for individual orders. At the same time we notice that silver fox is being promoted to a considerable extent in France, where it has always been a favorite, but because of tariff difficulties it is impossible to bring in Canadian skins. Those being made up and sold there are barter type received from Norway.

The Norwegians have been pretty smart in getting clear of their entire 1951 crop of skins by means of the prune deal and other methods. They have cleaned their surplus entirely. Just what they will do next year is a question, but we imagine that the breeders will be told by the government to curtail production, or rather perhaps the financial difficulties will do the trick. The same will apply to Finland and Denmark, that have made great strides in producing silver fox and its mutations. We wish we could look into the future and take a glimpse at what may happen, but we are not vouchsafed that peculiar quality of vision. However, it may be that in a few years Dame Fashion will change her mind and long-haired furs will come back again, but we are afraid it will be too late to do us any good here. Our cost of production is so much greater than the European countries that we would be out of the picture until prices would rise to an average of \$40 or more.

DOROTHY DIX SAYS—

Continued from page 2

to her companions and other members of her family. This is borne out by the fact that she couldn't maintain grades in school. Some youngsters take such failures as a deep, personal disgrace, which of course it isn't. Frequently the feeling of inferiority thus engendered takes a form of withdrawal, and the teen-ager crawls into a shell from which it is extremely difficult to extricate her. Others seek solace, as your daughter has, in building a dream world and childishly expecting everyone to believe in its delights as much as she does.

CONSULT A DOCTOR

Your daughter may have a serious mental problem, and your first step should be to consult your family doctor. He will tell you if psychiatric treatment is advisable. For your part, try to substitute something genuine for the imaginative. If your daughter can be convinced that she has enough ability, enough talent, to stand on her own among her contemporaries, the necessity for invention will be obviated. No human being is completely devoid of natural gifts, though sometimes it does take a little delving to find them. Your job is to help daughter discover her own aptitudes. If she has ever shown a talent for something, dig it out and get to work developing it. Encourage her to try new things in an effort to find something in which she can excel.

If the girl can establish herself as an interesting person, both to herself and friends, you'll find that the difficulty with the family will disappear. This, too, is an offshoot of an inferiority complex. Nothing can sour a disposition as much as the realization that one stands alone, and is neither needed nor wanted by anyone else. Such a feeling, I think, is at the root of your daughter's trouble. Patience, understanding and prayer will help to eradicate it.

DEAR MISS DIX: I'm 20 years old and very much in love with a boy 23. He is overseas, but wants to marry me when he comes back in November. I've only known him a month, and people are telling me we shouldn't be getting married so soon.

WORRIED L.

ANSWER: Usually I find people who are free with advice are giving out the wrong kind. The people you know, apparently, are much wiser than most. One month's acquaintance is definitely no foundation for marriage.

DEAR MISS DIX: Since starting high school last year, I have become very much interested in a sport that I intend to make my career—namely skating. However, to attain the goal of professional skater, I must attend the rink often. Since it doesn't get out until 11 P.M., and I don't get home until midnight, my father objects. He has set a curfew of 10 P.M., which eliminates skating. How can I convince him that he's ruling my career?

E. R.

ANSWER: Father is absolutely right about the curfew. Midnight is much too late for a 16-year-old to be out several times a week—career or not. Truthfully, however, aren't you using this as an excuse for extra dating?

Miss Nissen cannot reply personally to readers just will answer problems of general interest through this column.

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