

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming



The latest news in the fur world is that Lamson, Fraser and Huth, Inc., New York, has changed its name to Hudson's Bay Company Fur Sales, Inc. Lamson, Fraser and Huth was originally C. M. Lamson and Co., London, England, and Alfred Fraser was the manager in New York. He became very interested in silver fox through the news of the great process fox was bringing in London. He made many trips to England through the consignments of Charles Dalton and other pioneer ranchers. He made many trips to the province and advised breeders on the types to breed. However, Mr. Fraser over-stayed the trend of dark silver foxes and many of the breeders continued with that type when they should have gone into more silvery varieties. On his retirement the management was taken over by his nephew and then in 1936 C. M. Lamson Co., Alfred Fraser and Co. and Frederick Huth were merged in New York and later the Hudson's Bay Company bought the controlling interest. Hudson's Bay Company of course, as our readers are all aware, was founded in 1670 and has been engaged in the fur business with posts all over northern Canada and fur warehouses, stores and many other activities in various parts of the Dominion. It maintains auction houses in New York, Montreal and London and holds millions of acres of lands in western Canada which have valuable mineral and oil rights. Hudson's Bay Company stock is a prime investment and an effort has been made recently by a multi-millionaire to obtain control of it but we understand that is not possible, the control will remain in London.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Agnew are visiting relatives here after having a nice trip down from Michigan in their beautiful Cadillac. Frank left here about 30 years ago. Prior to that he was a very successful fox rancher and noting the great interest taken in foxes in the U. S. A. he decided that would be a better place to carry on such activities. His ranch there was a success from the start and through the years became one of the best in the state. When foxes started their decline he was frightened enough to put in mink, first natural mink and then mutations. Frank makes a practice of keeping the best stock available and has an official of the New York Auction Company

Consider Early Bow-and-Arrow Deer Season

WINNIPEG, (CP) — Possibility of a special early deer season for bow-and-arrow hunters is being considered by Manitoba game and fisheries department officials. A spokesman said on Thursday the question will be decided shortly when dates for this year's deer season will be settled. He said "very little" bow-and-arrow hunting now is done in the province, although it is not against the law. Terry Dickson, a leading exponent of the bow-and-arrow cause, said: "A few of us have tried it, but the cold weather plus the fact that gun-hunters are all over the place make it very difficult." He said about 15 Manitoba archers will go to Saskatchewan this fall to take advantage of the special early season there for bow-and-arrow hunters.

Strike Looms In Montreal

QUEBEC, (CP) — A Catholic labor official said today a tense situation exists between Montreal municipal employees and city authorities and that a strike may be called for Sept. 25. The statement was made before the 32nd annual convention of the Canadian Catholic Confederation of Labor by Amedee Parent of the Municipal Employees Syndicate CCCL. Jean Marchand, CCCL general secretary-general, later told the Canadian Press that no decision on a strike has been made by the more than 3,000 municipal employees.

Everyone wanted to get into Norwegian platinum but war was declared and it took a lot of ingenuity and considerable risk to bring Norwegian platinum to the United States.

Some did get over and their progeny came to Prince Edward Island. It was just about this time that the LaForest Platins came into prominence. These were bred at the LaForest Fox Farm in Quebec and were very beautiful, in fact some of them were quite as beautiful as the Norwegian. By means of polka-dot markings, platinum were soon in good supply. In the year 1945 the McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms sold a large number, four of them bringing \$225 apiece and the whole shipment over \$100 average, sold through the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association. Omar Brager-Larsen years ago became a citizen of the United States and now operates a mink ranch, with some foxes, in Michigan.

According to Women's Wear Daily August fur volume in retail stores across the United States generally declined substantially below the 1952 level. Only two reported gains, Minneapolis and Fort Worth. Some reported great losses such as Milwaukee, up to 60 per cent, Boston, Chicago and Washington between 10 and 20 per cent off. Various causes are blamed for the decline but most of those interviewed stated it was the blistering heat wave that hit many cities in the U. S. A. during the last ten days of August and burned out any desire of shoppers to look for winter furs.

The report is that mink was easily the dominant item sold. In departmental stores mink small pieces ranging in price from \$400, New York and the prices that in New York, Pastel, Ranch Standard and Wild Mink were all receiving attention. Mink scarfs at about \$90 were also drawing activity. Long coats attracted interest at \$4000. Milwaukee reported the hot weather had kept customers off the street. Ads running during this period lost their pulling power. Thus far best selling furs have been Pastel Mink stoles at \$1400, mink capes at \$270, natural sheered raccoon coats at \$595.

A program of education to convince fur farmers not to market low grade "summer casualty" mink is being conducted by two of the major breeders' associations, the Great Lakes Mink Association and the Mutation Mink Breeders' Association. Dave Loftman, manager in New York of the Great Lakes Mink Association, states that they are trying to educate the breeders to realize that when these very inferior pelts reach the market, and are made up into garments they damage the reputation of better mink products and eventually harm the ranchers themselves.

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc. DESERT LOCUSTS

The swarms of desert locusts that have devastated great areas in Africa, the Near East, Afghanistan and India in the past, have travelled with the prevailing winds from winter breeding grounds in Eastern Africa. They also have summer and fall breeding grounds along that east coast, from Nairobi to the border of Egypt. Spring breeding grounds extend from Cairo to Turkey and Russia on the north, and throughout the Near East countries, extending in the southwest to Karachi in Pakistan.

Besides the large summer breeding areas in the Sudan and Ethiopia, there are great areas of locust summer breeding grounds in Pakistan and northwest India. It is from these areas of the Punjab that migrations swing across Central India and around across the north to Afghanistan and the Near East countries, and back again to Africa.

These migrations seem to have been general from time to time for ages. They were first recorded on an Egyptian tomb at least 4,350 years ago. In recent times migrating swarms moved in late winter from Africa to Saudi Arabia and on to all the countries of the Near East, reaching Iraq and Iran in March and April. In late spring and early summer they advance to India and by August they reach the Indian Ocean and swing back to Africa. In the winter months the migrations of the Desert Locust are back in Kenya, Somaliland and Ethiopia.

For centuries men have fought a losing battle with this whirling horror, which frequently came as a cloud that obscured the sun and with a noise from their wings that was deafening. They devoured every living green plant, causing ruin and famine along the path of each migrating swarm. Damage was most severe in areas where the annual rainfall was less than 26 inches.

It is only within the last 30 years that scientists learned that the Desert Locust lived a Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde existence. Early conditions, is a quiet grasshopper, similar to those elsewhere; but when conditions of soil, temperature, vegetation and rainfall in the desert are favourable, the ordinary number of grasshoppers usually there, can very quickly develop into a vast swarm of locusts that may devastate areas of crops in other countries and in other continents.

Grasshoppers and locusts are now placed in the family Locustidae, and occur over the entire world. They vary in length from one-quarter of an inch to six and a half inches, which is the length of the Venezuelan grasshopper. The red-legged and Rocky Mountain grasshoppers, the most destructive North American species, are scarcely one inch in length when full grown. All grasshoppers have strong hind legs with great leaping powers. The females have ovipositors which they thrust into the soil and lay their eggs in a long cylindrical mass, enveloped in a gelatinous secretion that hardens. Each individual will lay from 8-25 of these banana-like clusters, containing from 20-120 eggs each.

In temperate climates, many species winter over in the egg stage; but the eggs of the Desert Locust hatch in about forty days, into black six-legged nymphs or hoppers, similar in appearance to the adult, except that they are wingless. The nymphs, which have voracious vegetarian appetites, crawl and hop along during the periods when they pass through five molts or nymphal instars, before getting their two pairs of wings. Their colour turns increasingly pink as they mature into three-inch locusts.

In preparation for their ravensome migrations, however, these Desert Locusts, hatched under favourable conditions, become quite different from their grasshopper parents; their colour becomes a handsome orange-yellow, with many dark spots on their wings. It is said that even their body temperature is higher. They act as a group, a swarm that is self-propagating, that moves forward in the general direction of former migrations from their birthplace.

Climatic changes from year to year may cause variation in the direction of the migrations. So far it has been impossible to predict the size or movement of a swarm of locusts. Some are known to have veered away from feeding grounds and flown out to be lost at sea. Others have travelled to cold areas where their eggs did not hatch, or flown to hot, barren Acrididae.

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areas where they died from lack of food and intense heat. Swarms a mile wide have been known to take ten days to pass through an area, destroying every green plant, but not veering either to the right or to the left.

Once a winged swarm is on its way, very little can be done to stop its ravages. It seems impossible to stop its progress with any poison or treatment that would not render the protected crop unfit for human consumption. Many different systems of destroying these terrible swarms have been tried, both in the Old and New World. Bounties were offered for their destruction, to be paid per bushel for the insects, etc. Their eggs were collected and burned. On the Island of Cyprus in 1881, 1-600,000 locust egg cases, with an estimated weight of over 1,300 tons, were destroyed. Two years later, not fewer than 5,076,000 egg cases were again deposited on the island. These methods were of little practical value.

Progress in the fight against the Desert Locust has been made in recent years by locating their breeding grounds in the desert, hundreds of miles distant from cultivated crops; and there destroying the young nymphs before they get wings. This promising work has been undertaken by many countries under an International Locust Control Project.

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W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE Commencing Monday, September 14th, our office will return to our usual office hours of 9 until 5 daily, except Saturday, when we close at 1 o'clock. Telephones: Office - 181 Queen Street - 8541 - 8542 JOHN R. ROGERS Residence 9471 WALTER M. BEARS Residence 4628 AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Canada To Retain Flexible Attitude To Korean Parley By Mel Sufrin (Canadian Press Staff Writer) UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (CP) - Canada intends to maintain a flexible attitude toward the Communist Chinese proposal for reconsidering the question of what countries shall be represented at the forthcoming Korean peace conference. At the present time, Canada, like the 15 other nations which fought under the UN command in Korea, is strongly opposed to reopening debate in the UN General Assembly on the conference make-up. But, informants say, this does not preclude the possibility of a change in the Canadian attitude if it should appear that there would be no hope otherwise that the peace conference ever will be held.