

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

A despatch from Paris to Women's Wear Daily states that the enforced absence of many French buyers from last month's auctions in London (owing to the import ban of February), and the reported increase in the activities of German fur buyers, is seen as opening the way for three-cornered deals with the latter as intermediaries in an effort to keep the French market supplied with foreign skins. According to a Paris trade report, there may be at least to French importers if they can get such shipments in under the terms of the existing Franco-German trade treaty. Our comment is that the ban referred to has to a certain extent paralyzed the business of many of the leading furriers of Paris and pressure will no doubt be brought on the French Government to promote the new arrangement.

An end of the season collection of dressed mutation mink was sold by Lampton, Fraser & Huth's, New York, late last week with the trade reported as taking from 35 to 70 per cent of the goods offered. Lampton's official report states that mink, 54 per cent sold at a top of \$25.50 for males and \$15 for females; dressed mutations, 45 per cent of Royal Pastel, light and medium light males sold at a top of \$51.50; Stewart Pastel, light medium, females sold for \$30.00; whites were 50 per cent sold at a top of \$60 for males and \$28 for females; Platins were 52 per cent sold at a top of \$49.50 for Breach of Spring males, light medium, and \$26 for females, light medium. The sales room was in substantial agreement that levels were firm considering the late season merchandise offered. Strength of female ranch mink was attributed to the current demand for chokers and other small mink accessories.

Action to plug a "loophole" in the United States ban on imports of seven Russian furs is being considered by two fur trade associations. According to spokesmen for the American Fur Merchants Association and the Associated Fur Merchants, the United States ban on the seven furs does not specifically prohibit American importation of garments made from these same Russian pelts if they are manufactured in other countries. Through the use of the "loophole" thus far has not been imposed as a serious threat to American dealers and manufacturers it is within the realm of possibility that it could become more serious. One manufacturer reported that he was offered some marbled scarfs made in Great Britain of Russian skins at \$20 per skin, when the wholesale cost of comparable American-made scarfs is \$27.50 per skin.

United States Customs authorities with headquarters in Montreal stated that it is not possible to export from Canada to the United States legally, any Russian furs on the restricted list in any form, dressed or otherwise, so Canada could not be the country admitting these furs.

Newfoundland has been included among the areas in which government bounties will be paid for harbor seals, the Fisheries Department has announced. The bounty in Newfoundland will be the same as those paid in the Maritime Provinces, \$10 for the destruction of each adult and \$5 for each pup. The Dominion Government began paying bounties on harbor seals following investigations by the Fisheries Research Board which

Calls Grain Production Bell-Wether Of Economy

TORONTO, Oct. 31 (CP)—Trade Minister Howe Tuesday described Canadian grain production and sales as a "bell-wether" of the entire economy and forecast that the value of grain crops this year may total more than \$1,000,000,000. While the sales outlook is bright, he said in a speech prepared for delivery before the Junior Investment Dealers' Association of Canada, problems are developing in the renewal of the four-year International Wheat Agreement which ends July 31 next. Canada, he said, will participate in negotiations to renew the pact "but we shall not be easily satisfied."

While renewal would be "good" for Canada and for the world generally, Canada could get along without it and its renewal "can by no means be taken for granted." (Negotiations open in Washington, Jan. 12 next.) Canada and other exporting countries of the 44-country pact are demanding higher prices. Currently, the agreement calls for a ceiling of \$1.80 (U.S.) a bushel, basis No. 1 Northern, and a floor of \$1.30 a bushel this year and \$1.20 next.) Mr. Howe said he decided to speak about grain to the investment dealers because, whether they realized it or not, grain was one of the mainstays of the economy.

"Strong grain prices are associated with a high level of demand generally; rapidly declining prices have often been a forerunner of trouble. Certainly the rapid fall in grain prices gave the 'tip-off' to the great depression of the thirties." He advised those with particular interest in the Canadian dollar to study Canada's exports of grain and flour "for the high level of demand for these products has undoubtedly had much to do with the increased value that outsiders place on our currency."

Investors were taking a keen interest in Western oil developments,

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

THE TENT CITY AT CARP

Three years of planning and a few months of construction produced a most remarkable Tent City, that grew almost like a mushroom over night on the airfield at Carp. It would have been normally within thirty minutes of the city of Ottawa; but due to traffic jams, on the second day of the International Plowing Match, it took most visitors from an hour and a half to two hours to drive from the Capital City. The highways were filled from every direction bumper to bumper most of the way, as 37,000 people converged where two great highways intersect about two miles from the town of Carp. This traffic jam was caused largely by a challenge issued by Mayor Charlotte Whitton of Ottawa to all mayors and Reeves of Ontario to compete in a ploughing contest of their own.

The tent city extended over twenty-five acres. It had three main streets fifty feet wide and four traffic roads fifteen feet wide and all 1,400 feet long, and also three cross streets, 700 feet long. One of these was a paved airstrip, 200 feet wide, and the other two were fifty feet wide. For this tent city there were waterworks, with miles of water pipe line and plumbing. It had hydro poles along the streets carrying electric current at a cost of 25¢ per 100 watt of connected load. This lighted the city at night and operated unnumbered farm machines, equipment for cooking the food for thousands and printing bulletins giving the names and home addresses of contestants in each class to be plowed each day with the number and location of the plot they were to plow. Each evening a complete prize list was printed of the winners for that day, and issued free.

Loud speakers were continually announcing events; these included: The official opening by Hon. Leslie Frost, Premier of Ontario, demonstrations in rural fire fighting, the use of tree planting equipment, seed cleaning, spraying to control disease and insects, and also to kill weeds, oxen plowing, old time thrashers, etc., in each case giving the location of the demonstration as the time. There were on adjoining farms, pasture and forage plots, showing 24 plots of improved grasses and clovers, also pasture and hay mixtures that had been sown months earlier. The making of open ditches and a continuous demonstration of machines ditching and laying the drains, bulldozers clearing and leveling land and digging a farm pond were also shown.

The area used for these demonstrations and available for the plowing matches adjoined the tented city and the Carp Airport. Most of the visitors' cars were parked on the airport, and their value was estimated at over fifteen million dollars. The large hanger west of the tent city was filled with exhibits from Carleton County. There were five breeds of cattle, an exhibit of turkeys and many agricultural products. It also featured photographs, maps and scale models of Ottawa, "our National Capital past, present and future", prepared and presented by the National Capital Planning Committee. Many of these were quite large and complete in every detail.

Attractions: There was erected near the Headquarters Building of the Tent City a very large marquee, furnished as a "House of Friendship, where visitors could meet their friends and rest a while". All were assured of a warm welcome. Tea was served free of charge, every afternoon from one to four p. m. The admission charge to all these and more was 25¢ and the parking charge for an automobile right near the Tent City was also 25¢. There was no form of gambling, raffle, or game of chance in the Tent City, parking areas, roads or anywhere under the control of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, which extended for miles along every road for the four days of the International Plowing Match.

Farm Machinery: It is impossible to describe in the space available the gigantic display of new farm machines and the improvements that have been added to the older farm equipment. Mr. J. A. M. Cook, reporting for the Free Press, Prairie Farmer wrote: "There must have been about \$10,000,000 worth of farm machinery, a yoke of oxen and a captive balloon performing last week around Carp Airport."

"Maybe \$20 millions, hard to tell because this is the world's greatest plowing match isn't it. Certainly its our biggest mass spectacle of farm machinery." Every day thousands of farmers looked critically over these machines and talked with the salesmen along the miles of this great display of farm machinery. There was much that was new to many of us and drew among others, two agricultural engineers interested in reclamation projects in the Maritimes, to see heavy open ditching machines. Two new completely hydraulically equipped combines drew considerable attention, they were said to be capable of harvesting from 100 to 120 acres of grain each per day. They had been completely reworked during August 1952, and were shown for the first time in Canada, as having the greatest capacity of any machine on the market. The giant Class combine, made in Germany was also shown. Grassland equipment shown included a tractor mower with a capacity of cutting five acres per hour; crop dryers, tractor driven, capable of drying baled hay, hay on wagons, sacked grain, etc., were shown. It was claimed for one dryer that it would dry a load of loose hay in thirty minutes, or 100 bushels of grain per hour. An hydraulic baled hay loader that was attached to the side of a wagon trailer with power supplied by the tractor hauling it, automatically picked up bales of hay from the field and placed them on a platform, second tier height, as fast as an operator could stow them on the wagon.

Side Show: The only side show seen was an exhibit by the Rotary Club of Kemplville of giant halibut bones that fell in their community on June 26, 1952, that shattered 369 panes of glass in motor cars and did great damage to property and crops. They had kept many of these large chunks of ice in a deep freezer, and some of them still were larger than baseballs. A sheet of metal roofing was shown with a triangular hole in it made by the halibut bones, nine inches long on one side, and five inches along the other side. One of the attendants said he had seen halibut bones as large as his two fists together, but they had melted before they could be placed in the freezer. The writer saw an automobile that had been dented in the storm that had 126 dents in its body. These exhibits were shown in connection with securing donations for the Kemplville Rotary Crippled Children's Fund.

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Manitoba To Buy Common Shares Of Winnipeg Electric

WINNIPEG, Oct. 31 (CP)—The Manitoba Government will offer to buy common shares of the Winnipeg Electric Company at about \$36.50 each, financial circles reported Tuesday. With \$64,989 common shares to be purchased, the cash outlay for the company's hydro-electric assets would be about \$20,200,000.

In addition, the government hopes to take over the bonded indebtedness of the company—about \$27,400,000—and some \$5,000,000 worth of preferred stock, it was reported. This would bring the total cost of the power assets to just over \$53,000,000. At present, common shares are being bid at \$39.50. The difference between this amount and the \$36.50 which the province is reported offering apparently can be applied against the transit and gas utilities of the company, together with the value of its head office building.

Some financial circles said the additional \$3 a share would be the extra value of the non-power assets of the company. The transit system, gas utility and head office building likely will become the main assets around which three new corporations will be established. Purchase offers will be mailed to the 5,000-odd shareholders soon.

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