

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The presence at Charlottetown of John Maloney of the Hudson's Bay Company, Montreal, as judge of the Fifth Annual Live Mink Show the past week brings to mind that it is the oldest incorporated company in the world, being formed on the 2nd of May, 1670, under charter given them by King Charles 2nd. They were known as the Governor and Company of Adventurers Trading into Hudson's Bay. These men, pooling a certain portion of their resources, fitted out two ships which intrepid navigators sailed to the remote fastnesses of the far north of Canada and the following year brought back a cargo of magnificent peltries which we sold at auction in London, the proceeds going to the company. That was the start and eventually its trading posts stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in fact one trading post was in Washington Territory, then claimed by Great Britain. The Treaty of 1490 set the boundary line north of it and the Hudson's Bay post was abandoned.

The Company met with a great deal of opposition from the Northwest Fur Company of Canada and other fur traders fitted out in the United States. It was an era of great adventures and it was these fur traders who opened pathways to the west and from the north to the south. No more interesting pages of history can be read than those dealing with the exploits of these wonderful hardy men who practically took their lives in their hands to bring back to civilization the wanted furs that are now so easily obtained. The Hudson's Bay Company with its posts throughout the west, also did a great deal towards passing out information regarding fertility of the land and its advantage for settlement. They were practically the owners of a large part of the west until a deal was made with the Canadian government and great territories there reverted to that government, the

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recovery and good prices were obtained throughout 1942-1945. Then the slump started again and now the production on Canadian farms has reached a low point of about 35,000 silver fox and mutation pelts for 1952.

The present show at the Exhibition grounds has demonstrated the fact that the breeders here who have held on have not sacrificed quality as all classes have beautiful animals exhibited. Most of them have turned to mink as a sideline and that is helping out in absorbing the deficit from silver fox. As we mentioned, that is the reason why Mr. Maloney of Hudson's Bay Company is here. He is an expert on mink, having been thoroughly trained in the warehouses in London, and having priced and marketed hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of mink and its mutations. It was really a pleasure and an education to watch him pick up a mink cage and look at the mink, size it up, turn it around to get the light to play on it and then place it in its proper prize-winning order. Everything was done with intense concentration and very quickly. That the Company could spare him and send him here shows that the interest they take in fostering the production of mink which is only one of the furs that they are actively engaged in handling. Mr. Maloney is a man with a great personality, one who speaks easily and fluently on any subject connected with furs.

The 22nd annual Live Fox Show and 5th Live Mink Show, was concluded at the Provincial Exhibition Fur Pavilion on Thursday at one o'clock. Upwards of 250 foxes and minks were shown in the land and some Nova Scotia exhibitors. The foxes were up to the usual standard with the Pearl Plat-

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inum, the best ever exhibited. That strain is making good progress and really beautiful types of blue grey silver pearls were shown in plenty. They are bringing a price that will just about pay the cost of production while other types of foxes are being produced at a loss. The mink were more varied

in type and of the best quality yet shown. That was the opinion of Judge John Maloney when he completed his work.

A nice feature of the closing was remarks by President, B. B. Jones, thanking Mr. Maloney for coming down here and officiating. Credit was also given to Parvin Cass, who

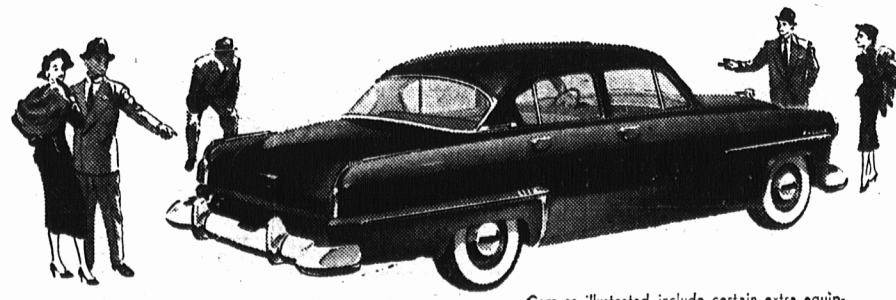
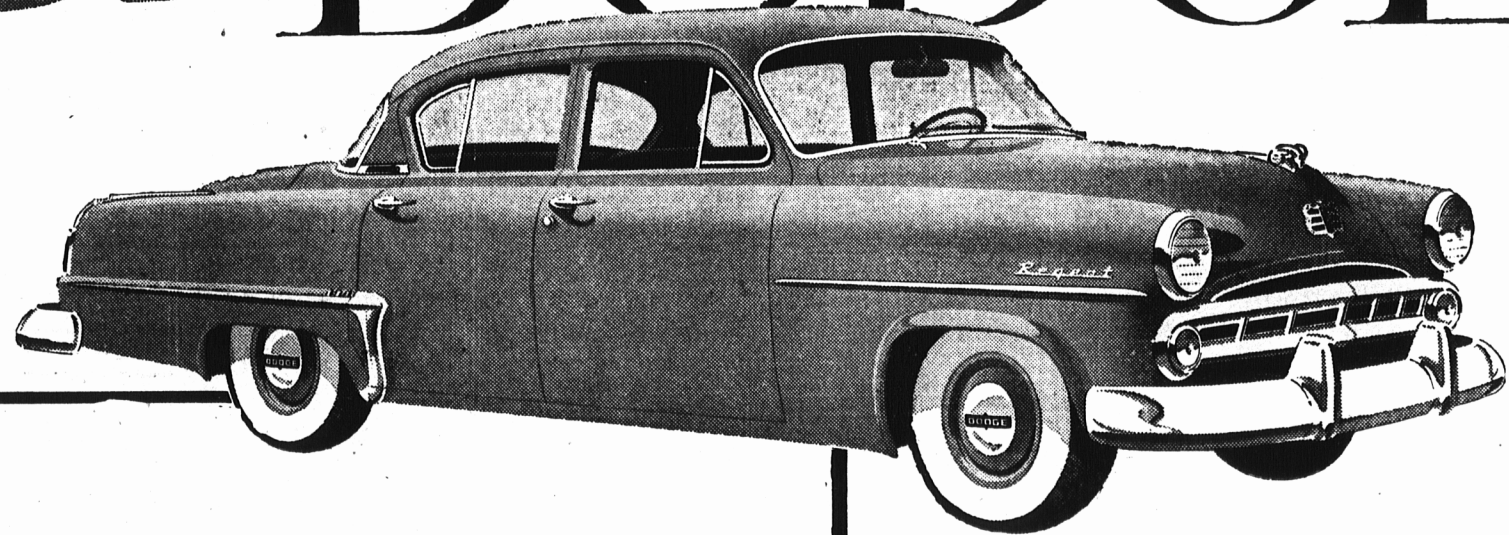
classified the foxes and mink, and to Walter R. Shaw, secretary, and Miss Eleanor Toombs for her excellent clerical work. Full results of the above show have been published in this paper daily. The foxes were judged the previous days by George A. Calbeck, who of course is the best man that can be found for that job. Two beautiful Hud-

son's Bay Company blankets were brought down by Mr. Maloney and presented with the compliments of the Hudson's Bay Company to Ernest Mill, Kensington, for winning the grand aggregate prize in foxes and to B. B. Jones, Bunbury, for grand aggregate in points for mink.

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