

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming

Some fur garment manufacturers in Montreal are worrying over the fact that retailers are demanding a downward adjustment of prices to offset the elimination of the 15 percent excise tax on furs. Many manufacturers are holding substantial stocks on which the tax has been paid. Retailers point out, however, that they in turn are passing on the tax concession to the consumer and they expect their suppliers to do likewise. Nonetheless the manufacturing trade shares the general fur trade jubilation over the tax repeal. "Nothing better could have happened to the fur trade at this time," said the President of the Etco Fur Co., Montreal, who is also President of the Fur Manufacturers Guild. "It is a wonderful move, after the initial adjustment in tax-paid stocks it will provide an immense financial relief to the industry. It comes just at the right time, just as we are readying our next season's coats."

Dressed and raw mutation mink from Independent Shippers drew good competition and reached levels in line with the previous EMBA sale at Hudson's Bay Company, New York, last week. The official auction company report follows for dressed collections. Pastel, all types (6,389), 97 per cent sold. Standard top males, \$43; females, \$20.50. Stewart top males, \$45; females, \$23. Gunmetal (1,944), 99 per cent sold. Top males, \$52; females, \$22.50. Sapphires (1,758), 95 per cent sold. Top males, \$53; females, \$24. Platinum standards (4,605), 98 per cent. Top males, \$30; females, \$16.50. Platinum sash of spring (1,850) 91 per cent sold. Top males, \$45; females, \$20.50. Stewart platinum (595), 71 per cent sold. Top males, \$33; females, \$17.75. Whites (1,115), 88 per cent sold. Top males, \$48; females, \$23. A collection of 486 miscellaneous whites was 94 per cent sold with a top male of \$25 and top female of \$17. Homozygous types (369), 100 per cent sold. Top males, \$70; females, \$30. Mutation minks (563), 94 per cent sold. Also a total of approximately 8,000 miscellaneous mutations and skins were moving at a 100 per cent clip. In the raws (3,656), 85 per cent was sold.

Paul Reinhardt, secretary-treasurer of the American Fox Breeders Association, urged removal of the tariff on fox pelts imported from Canada to the United States. "We want this tariff removed to apply only to Canada," Mr. Reinhardt said. "We want the present tariff arrangement to remain intact with all other countries." The Association official charged that the existing tariff is damaging the interests of both American and Canadian fox breeders. He explained, "New York buyers come to the fur sales in Canada to buy fox pelts. They are aware of the duty they have to pay when they bring these pelts into the United States. They will, therefore, try to purchase the goods sufficiently cheaper to compensate for the payment of the duty. When these buyers return to our American market, they carry with them a mental picture of what they paid in Canada and expect to buy United States pelts for the same price. The Canadian as well as the United States fox farmers are penalized for the value of the tariff."

Mr. Reinhardt urged the Treasury Department to end the tariff on the ground that "it would benefit far more from a price recovery of ratched fox than it is receiving now from tariff collections on fox from Canada." He estimated that the combined fox crop of the United States and Canada now amounts to less than 10,000 pelts a

year. However, Mr. Reinhardt, who returned recently from a trip abroad, reported increased interest in fox in Western Europe. Mr. Reinhardt observed that "the fur market of the world is largely governed by what happens on the North American continent." Because the "tariff penalty" imposes hardship on United States and Canadian fox breeders, he urged speedy corrective action. "The bond of friendship and brotherliness which exists between the United States and Canada, as well as very similar living standards and production costs, serve to emphasize the reasonableness of our request that Canadian fox pelts may be imported into the United States free of duty," he concluded.

Hats off to our friend Paul Reinhardt, well-known to many of our fur breeders here, who has consistently championed silver fox and its mutations and no doubt sees a bit of sunlight shining through the gloom. The tariff of 50 per cent on silver fox pelts and 15 per cent on live foxes came into force the fall of 1920 and hit the fur industry in this province a tremendous blow as the London auctions hadn't got back into stride following World War I which ended on Nov. 11, 1918. It was W. Chester S. McClure who first introduced silver fox into the United States in quantities and he, as a representative of the P. E. I. Fur Sales Board, brought these beautiful furs into great prominence there.

In the meantime between the years 1913 and 1920 American fox breeders such as Fromm Bros. and their cousins the Niemanns, as well as many breeders in Michigan and other states, had been importing Canadian foxes and had developed their ranches to quite a good production. They decided they wanted the market for pelts large and to themselves although they were not as a rule producing quality fox pelts such as Prince Edward Island was. The bad times here continued for only a couple of years then London opened up and became a good market for pelts. This, together with the arrival of fox buyers from Norway and other European countries created a boom in this fair province and we had practically no worries until 1932 when fox pelts took a nose dive like everything else, particularly the stock market. However, a recovery took place in the next couple of years and all ranches were making money right up until 1939 when World War 2 broke out. Mr. Reinhardt's contention re the removal of the duty is a sound one, because the production of silver fox and its mutations in Canada and the United States is not great enough to satisfy the demand for the stylishly really create it. In that case they would have to buy from European countries to fill such a demand.

During last week because of the new excise tax cut, New York department stores, specialty shops and furriers turned the spotlight on spring furs by giving them more prominent coverage in retail ads. In the news along with mink were squirrel, silver fox and its mutations and Russian sable. Stoiles took the fashion lead followed by smaller wraps and jackets. Scarfs also received strong endorsement. In many cases retailers added reduced prices to the tax cut by advertising furs at 20 to 25 per cent savings. Among the furs advertised was blue fox stole at \$340; a capelet at \$185 and other types at various prices. No doubt this advertising and the cut in prices will mean

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.S. WATER LILIES

Water lilies are among the most attractive and beautiful flowers that we have in Eastern Canada. Our visitors look upon them as rare flowers, as they very seldom see them growing under natural conditions as those seen in the pond near the Experimental Station buildings at Charlottetown. This flower decked pond when covered with its large, heart-shaped lily leaves, interspersed with many hundreds of pink and white blooms, that are matchless in their perfection, gives a good illustration of what has been done and can be done with a great number of water holes or ponds throughout this Province.

There are hundreds of named varieties among the eight most important species that can be used in the improvement of home beautification plans and for ponds in landscape development projects. There were three ponds, or water holes on the height of land from near where the old barn stood at the Experimental Station, when it was first leased by the Canadian Government. Two of these were filled in, they were in line with one another to the north, the largest being near the Pottery Lane. Originally they had been dug to secure brick clay for pottery and brick making.

When Dr. William Saunders, the first Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms saw these ponds, he immediately said he would get up hardy water lilies for the pond near the barn. He made the selection of sorts he believed would do well and ordered them from Kentucky for delivery in the spring of 1910. He asked the firm to include a few plants with blue blooms if they had any they considered would be hardy in Prince Edward Island, Canada. The word "Canada" must have created in the minds of the firm vision of icebergs, ski slides, ice palaces and lakes frozen to the bottom for we never received plants that produce blue blooms.

Six sorts were received and planted in the pond, near the brow of the hill, and west of the barn mentioned, these all belonged to the species *Nymphaea* as follows: *Nalba*; *Nalba gigantea*; *Nalba gladstonia*; *Nodorata rosea*; *N. odorata luciana*, and *N. marliacea*. The water lily rootstalks were set in groups according to variety along the edge of the pond in eighteen inches of water. The method used was that old woven, wooden, potato baskets were weighted with stones and filled

a tremendously increased demand for furs in all American cities. The entire collection of 23,000 Silver Moon mutation mink from the Associated Fur Farms, Inc., New Holstein, Wis., will be offered at the New York Auction Company sale on April 28. Introduced into the Langenfeld herds this past year, according to Edward Langenfeld, has been a new gene which originated in Finland. While the animals possessing the gene are currently only average in terms of pelt value, Mr. Langenfeld believes that continued crossing of this strain with other types will eventually produce attractive new shades.

SHEEP AND SWINE BREEDERS' MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of Prince Edward Island Sheep Breeders' Association will be held at Birch Court, Experimental Farm, Charlottetown, on Tuesday, April 27th, at 2:00 o'clock sharp.

The Prince Edward Island Swine Breeders' Association will also convene at 7:30 o'clock on the same date at Birch Court.

These are important meetings, and a large number of sheep and swine producers should be in attendance. Keep the date reserved.

W. R. SHAW, Secretary, P. E. I. Sheep Breeders' Association.

TIP OF THE WEEK FROM YOUR MASTER DEALERS

- Charlottetown L. J. Rossiter
- Summerside Prince Edward Island Fur Pool Ltd.
- O'Leary H. B. Willis Inc.
- French River Arthur A. Campbell
- Central Bedouque Dunk River Dairying Co.
- Albany L. D. McLeod & Sons
- Victoria L. D. McLeod & Sons
- Stanley Bridge Reid's Feed Service
- Wheatley River Preston Rackham
- Morell Dingwell & Rossiter
- Kilmuir McGowan's Ltd.
- Murray River D. M. McKinnon
- Brookfield Cruwys Bros.
- Mount Stewart Clark's Feed Service

TIP NO. 35

At the beginning of the 8th week change your chicks gradually from Master Chick Starter Krums to Master Growing Krums or Pellets.

Let's Discuss Your Feeding Plan With Your Island's MASTER MAN

IVAN KERRY
Dial 5455
60 Green St. - Ch'town

FEEDERS WHO KEEP RECORDS USE MASTER

Soil Conservation And Related Problems

Excerpts from a Report by the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada.

ROTATIONS

Owing to the great variation in farms as to size, physical features and soil, and in the types of farming followed, it is not practical to advocate any specific system of farming or to recommend any one rotation. There are, however, certain basic principles which apply to the conservation of soil fertility.

As has been stated, organic matter is one of the most necessary components of a fertile soil. Therefore, any system of cropping that tends to conserve organic matter is advantageous whenever it can be followed. The more often soil is cultivated, opened up and subjected to the action of air, warmth and moisture, the more rapid is the decomposition and destruction of organic matter.

Thus a three year rotation of potatoes, grain, clover, in which the land is tilled two years out of three, is more destructive of organic matter than a four year rotation of potatoes, grain, clover, timothy. A six year rotation of potatoes, grain, clover, timothy, pasture, grain, is about the same as the above-mentioned four year rotation, insofar as the proportion of red land each year is concerned; but it gives three successive years during which a good sod may be produced. A six year rotation of potatoes, grain, clover, timothy, pasture, pasture, is better for the conservation of organic matter than any of the foregoing as only one-third of the area is tilled annually.

So far we have dealt only with the conservation of organic matter; but there is another factor worth considering, namely, the relative efficiency of different rotations in adding organic matter to the soil. While, under certain conditions it is possible to grow special crops for the sole purpose of producing vegetable matter to plough down, there are few in a position to spare the land at regular intervals. In addition there is the expense for seed and labor. Rotations in which there are two or more years of grass are more promising.

All crops add some fibre to the soil by their surface residues and by the roots they produce; but grass adds much more than most of us realize. For instance, after a crop of roots or potatoes, only a small amount of cultivation is needed to prepare the land for the next crop. After clover, more cultivation is required; but after a heavy sod, the land is so permeated by fine roots that a partial rot and a great deal of cultivation are needed to make the land friable. A rotation in which there are several years of grass gives an opportunity to build up a sod by light dressings of man-

ure or fertilizer. At the same time, at least a small crop of grass for hay or silage may be produced.

Short Rotations

In general, short rotations are more productive of foodstuffs than those of longer duration; but they require more manure and fertilizer and more organic matter if the level in any case, one basic principle must be kept in mind, namely: crops are produced at the expense of the fertility in the land. The truth of this principle is so obvious that it should not be necessary to mention it here. There are numerous farms in this Province that have been producing good crops for the past fifty to one hundred years and are still fertile; but the land has always been well fed. There are many more farms where the land has been cropped and not well fed, with the result that, gradually, they have become poor. Despite all these object lessons, the foregoing basic principle is constantly being disregarded. The hay crop and the quality of the sod are among the best indicators of the condition of the land.

look WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME WITH

SYLVAPLY DOUGLAS FIR PLYWOOD

You can carry out the home planning ideas you've admired in your favorite magazines, make smart furniture, or remodel an unused attic or basement. It's a pleasant spare-time pastime and you'll be proud of the professional-looking jobs you do with easy-to-work real-wood Sylvaply panels.

DO-IT-YOURSELF or HAVE-IT-DONE you save either way!

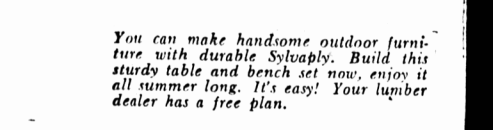
With Sylvaply, most projects are well within the average man's ability to handle a hammer and saw and when you "do-it-yourself" you save money. When you "have-it-done" for you, you're still ahead. Sylvaply's time and money saving qualities reduce costs too, when a professional carpenter or contractor does the job.

YOU GET PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS

Because of Sylvaply's tough, cross-ply construction, you can nail as close to the edge as you wish. Sylvaply will not split, crack, break or chip. And, Sylvaply's immense strength and durability makes every job you do a permanent improvement. Lasts a housewife indoors or out.



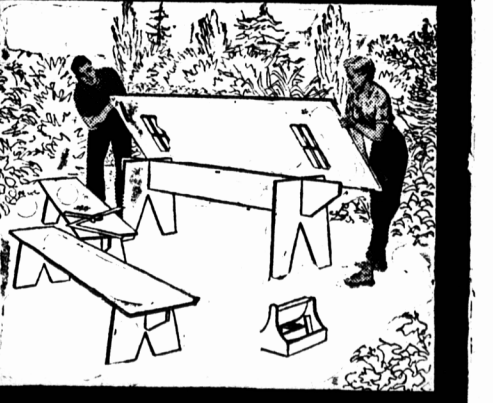
How the family grows! The house can grow too! Join the thousands of enthusiasts who are adding rooms and space-saving built-ins, building permanent beauty and lasting value into their homes with Sylvaply.



You can make handsome outdoor furniture with durable Sylvaply. Build this sturdy table and bench set now, enjoy it all summer long. It's easy! Your lumber dealer has a free plan.



You can do a better, more professional-looking job when you use Sylvaply. Built-ins and other home improvement projects like this are easier to build, easier to finish when you use Sylvaply Plywood.



CANADA'S BUSIEST BUILDING MATERIAL

Professional builders insist that the materials they use meet the most rigid standards of quality. The fact that today Sylvaply is going into more new home construction than ever before, means that this popular material passes every test for appearance, value and long life. Big, lightweight and strong the 4 feet by 8 feet panels of Sylvaply are available in a thickness for every use.

help for the handyman!

SEE YOUR SYLVAPLY DEALER

Have you got a project in mind? Visit "handyman headquarters" in your neighborhood, your dealer will be glad to give you advice that can save you money. No writing away for product information or plans... your Sylvaply dealer has a good stock of free folders displayed for your convenience. He is also displaying the new "take-home" panels, in more than 45 different sizes and thicknesses from 12 x 36 inches up. These smaller thrifty panels of Sylvaply are handy for small jobs and repairs around the home.

SYLVAPLY DOUGLAS FIR PLYWOOD

SEVING LUMBER DEALERS FROM COAST TO COAST
MacMILLAN & BLOEDEL LIMITED
VANCOUVER CALGARY EDMONTON WINNIPEG LONDON WINDSOR TORONTO MONTREAL QUEBEC

CHANDLER BROS.
CUSTOM WOODWORKERS
Belmont St. Dial 6557

MacDONALD-ROWE
WOODWORKING CO. LTD.
36 Lr. Water St. Dial 8575-8576

M. F. SCHURMAN Co. LIMITED
KENSINGTON SUMMERSIDE CHARLOTTETOWN



PAIL PROTECTOR... If you're tired of dents and punctures in the bottom of feed and milk pails, here's an effective shield that may be made by cutting off the lower half of a discarded pail and fitting this over the bottom of the good one as shown. Crimp the cut edge of the shield slightly so that it will grip tightly.

FEEDER CATTLE AUCTION

Farmers are invited to list cattle suitable for feeding. The sale will be held at Charlottetown before May 15th provided sufficient numbers are offered. Cattle will be sold by a qualified Auctioneer, selling charges will be set to cover costs only. If you have cattle for sale fill out this form and return promptly. Milch Cows will also be accepted.

I wish to list Cattle under 500 lbs.
I wish to list Cattle over 300 lbs.

Name of Farmer

Address

Return before May 5th to P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture, P.O. 99, Charlottetown.