

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The new fur auction season got under way in Montreal last week with offerings of 50,000 mink by the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company (Quebec) Ltd., and 50,000 by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Mink, seal and broadtail in that order are the leading sellers with Paul Kasoff, who operates one of the leading retail show rooms on Madison Avenue, New York.

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, one of the most startling fur garments offered was a full length white ermine coat trimmed with white fox. It is called Canada de luxe and is being featured by a French furrier who founded his establishment in Rio in 1927.

Sums of between \$300 and \$500 (approximately \$900 and \$1500) were paid recently for Union bred Karacul stud lambs, according to a cablegram from Cape Town, South Africa.

Fox in a wide variety of little pieces has been going well this season in New York and other cities. Made up and selling as boas.

The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd. reported that 90 per cent of its standard and mutation mink offering was sold in what they described as one of the best opening sales held in Canada both from the standpoint of actual turnover and consistent interest throughout the sale.

DEATH

- 1. RAT - MOUSE EXTERMINATOR Containing WARFARIN (Ready-to-use; dry meal form; attractive to rats and mice; safe around farm animals, pets; no odor problem.)

BABY CHICKS

We are now booking orders for chicks from Jan. 1st throughout the season. Current prices with 1c reduction for orders placed before Jan. 1st. Special prices on cockerels for January and February.

MacDONALD'S BREEDER HATCHERY Covehead, P.E.I.

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

FIRST WAR DISEASE CONTROL STATION

Increased Asiatic, African and Trans-Atlantic air travel and the possibility of the enemy taking action by "biological warfare" led to several informal conferences in 1941, which resulted in the Canadian Minister of Defense and the United States Secretary of War appointing a joint United States-Canadian Commission to protect the North American continent against cattle-plague (rinderpest), which might be brought to North America accidentally by the enemy.

The commission was led by Dr. J. Craigie of Toronto University, and three of Canada's leading scientists, and Dr. R. E. Dyer, Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service, Washington, D.C., and three outstanding United States scientists. They established the first War Disease Control Station at Grosse Isle, P.Q., near the mouth of the St. Lawrence River in Canada.

The research laboratory was built by using many of the existing buildings and reconstructing them so that safety procedures and rigid quarantine could be enforced. The natural isolation of the location contributed to the safe handling and disposal of the many experimental animals.

The scientific staff assigned to the project, was made up of six United States Army, Veterinary and Medical officers, two Canadian scientists, a corps of technicians from both countries, and Canadian Army Service personnel. Security regulations delayed any reports or information concerning their work until 1946, when the above Joint Commission and the Chemical Warfare Service, U.S. Army, published, in addition to their regular April issue Part I, another publication issued as Part II, Vol. 7, No. 23, which contained sixteen scientific articles on rinderpest, prepared and submitted to the Commission by members of the staff.

There was a strong demand for Royal Pastel; best quality males ranged from \$40 to \$44 and females \$21 to \$22. A fine catalogue of Silverblu mink was practically 100 per cent sold. Breach of Springs brought from \$42 to \$47.50 for good quality males and \$22 to \$23 for females. Stewarts ranged from \$38 to \$44 for males and \$22 to \$23 for females. A collection of Lucernes brought from \$28 to \$34.52 for males, part females. In the miscellaneous category was a limited collection of white mink. They were 100 per cent sold with males bringing from \$54.50 to \$64, females from \$30 to \$39. A small offering of Sapphires was almost completely absorbed, reaching \$60 for males and \$35 for females.

the textbooks, after an incubation period of from forty-eight to seventy-two hours. Most of our animals have been sacrificed on the second or third day of fever, but those allowed to progress have died after six to ten days of illness. The experimental disease is contagious between calves, transmitting by pen contact after incubation periods of six and eight days in the two experiments that have been conducted.

"Page 136. "Experimental Animals—We have used for all work so far, calves purchased either locally or at the Montreal stockyards. These have ranged in age from six months to one year and we have purposely included representatives of as many breeds as could be procured. Most of the animals have been Holstein-Friesians, Jerseys, or Ayrshires, but a few Herefords, Red Polls, Short-horns, Guernseys and Canadians have been included. We have as yet used no Aberdeen-Angus or Brown Swiss. So far as can be told from experiments that have been largely qualitative, all of the breeds from which we have used representatives are of about equal susceptibility to our strain of rinderpest."

"This article gives details re isolation, technique and precautions used in connection with the cultivation of rinderpest virus. Article Rinderpest: III, Page 150: "We have prepared a vaccine which, so far as can be told from tests under experimental conditions, is satisfactory for use in protecting cattle against rinderpest. The vaccine, as prepared, is a very slight modification of the one developed and used successfully in the Philippines by Keller and his co-workers. We have on hand a sufficient amount of finished vaccine to combat initial, scattered outbreaks of the disease and we have, further, in frozen storage a relatively large amount of infected tissue which can, on short notice, be made into vaccine.

"If our vaccine is to be employed at all in Canada or the United States, it will be only as an emergency procedure and in the face of an outbreak of rinderpest. Under such a circumstance, there are very obvious disadvantages to the use of a vaccine requiring multiple inoculations to immunize. We have, therefore, directed our efforts towards the production of one which will confer satisfactory immunity after a single administration. So far as we can determine under experimental conditions, a single injection of 10 cc. of the vaccine is adequate to confer protection."

"Source of Virus.—The rinderpest virus used in the present experiments was an African bovine strain. It came to us dried in sealed ampules and examination of the powdered fragments indicated that the dried tissue was lung. No difficulty was encountered in establishing the virus in calves. Administered subcutaneously to calves, it induced a disease that was clinically characteristic of rinderpest, as described in

"Summary: A method is outlined of doing neutralization tests in rabbits that measures the antibody content in serums from animals, either vaccinated against or recovered from experimental rinderpest. The practical significance for determining the efficiency of vaccination against rinderpest is discussed. It is concluded that there is a definite correlation between immunity and the development of neutralizing antibodies." Article Rinderpest: XIII, Page 211: "Summary: (4) A method of

producing a stock of attenuated seed virus is described. (5) Production methods for large quantities of the avianized vaccine are described in detail. (6) Methods of drying the vaccine. Continued on page 14

SHUR-GAIN FEED SERVICE Shur-Gain Feed Prices HOGS SHUR-GAIN FEED SERVICE

Table listing Shur-Gain Hog products and prices: 18% SHUR-GAIN Pig Booster 6.00, 18% SHUR-GAIN Pig Starter 5.00, 16% SHUR-GAIN Hog Grower 4.10, 15% SHUR-GAIN Hog Finisher 4.00, 15% SHUR-GAIN Sow Ration 4.10, 35% SHUR-GAIN Hog Concentrate 6.45, 35% SHUR-GAIN Sow Concentrate 7.00, SHUR-GAIN Hog Mineral 3.70

Table listing Shur-Gain Poultry products and prices: 17% SHUR-GAIN Laying Mash 4.70, 17% SHUR-GAIN Hatching Mash 4.90, 32% SHUR-GAIN Eggmaker Concentrate 6.80, 37% SHUR-GAIN Fast Fattener Concentrate 7.00, 32% SHUR-GAIN Hatchmaker Concentrate 7.50

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The British Columbia Department of Agriculture is predicting firmer prices on mink pelts this winter in Canada. The government's market bulletin says, "With stocks at comparatively low levels across the country, it is anticipated that mink prices will reflect a somewhat firmer tone this winter than was the case one year ago. While the fur market generally was rather weak during the spring months of this year, re-

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