

Fur Business Sees Many Changes in Canada These Days

Toronto Men Wore Furs in Early Days. Women Now Chief Customers.

(By D.S.R.)

One can remember when a black or silver grey fox pelt was the greatest prize a trapper could obtain. These were the rare pelts brought large sums. There were no fox farms in those days. But now, due to fur farming, these skins have become more common and what with the European market practically non-existent under war conditions, they have taken a tumble. Because of the influx from Canada fine fox skins are said to have dropped thirty per cent in New York. Canada's annual export quota to the United States is 50,000 skins. Even so the price of fox furs for American women is not yet on a bargain counter scale.

According to Charlotte Hughes, writing in the New York Times, American women spent about \$350,000,000 on furs during 1939, and 800,000 American women got new fur coats. The average price of fur coats in American big stores was estimated as \$100.

Rat Replaced Seal This is because fur farms have helped to increase the supply, not only of fox skins but especially of mink, and to the improvements in making less expensive furs look like better ones. Though the best furs come generally from the North many good pelts hail from less frigid territory. Lately a trapper was arrested for taking mink and weasel (ermine in its winter garb) right in the environs of New York City. The man who had been trapping along the prohibited shores of Pelham Bay, told the magistrate that he could get better prices for his New York mink than he had been able to secure for mink "up in Canada." Louisiana, which is associated in the Canadian mind with hot weather and plantations, yields a large harvest of good muskrat skins.

Oldsters in Toronto who may recall when the now very valuable chinchilla of South America was worn by muskrat not so rich, will recollect the muskrat as the humblest of furs. Who ever thought that "rat" would some day supersede the fine sealskins coats of the 1880's and 1890's. Due to international protection of the fur seal herds of the Aleutian Islands, the skin of this animal threatened with extinction, was taken off the market for many years.

Fixing Up Pelts And so it was that the muskrat took its place and climbed from a price of 10 to 25 cents a pelt, to the dizzy height of \$5 and \$6 in the boom days of 1920. In former times muskrat had been mainly used in lining overcoats for well-to-do men. There are ninety separate steps in making a muskrat skin, say, into the gleaming Hudson seal one sees on well-dressed women and girls to-day. A layer of skin is scraped from the under side of the pelt, and going into a beating machine, is pounded soft. The back of the fur is greased, natural oils are injected into the pelt and impurities removed. About ten per cent of the furs now sold, we are informed, closely resemble the original animal. Most of them are dyed or blended to look like something else. Among the furs not tampered with are mink, leopard and black, silver, white and blue fox. While up in the Canadian Arctic some years ago, I obtained four fine fox skins on Baffin Land and the shore of Hudson Bay. I had the three snow-white pelts made into neckpieces for relatives. The single blue one, an especially fine specimen, I gave to an especially dear relative, and had the pleasure of seeing her wear it on frequent occasions. It was one of the rarest and most beautiful neckpieces in Toronto, and greatly admired.

Advice To Ladies

It is stated that there is a good deal of tampering nowadays with muskrat fur to make it look like mink. The coloring is brushed on and the stripes applied with feathers to produce an imitation of both mink and sable. One of the latest miracles of the fur artist has been a silver fox-blended raccoon!

Experts advise a woman about to buy a fur coat to go to a reputable dealer. A young New York manufacturer of fur garments says women should buy quality of fur they can afford in a certain class, rather than a garment of top quality in a lower class. For instance, he considers a good quality rabbit coat a better investment than a lower bracket Hudson seal that might actually cost more than the rabbit garment.

Have you ever wondered what was the price of furs in Toronto when this metropolis was York, a little town of about 5,000 people? In this connection the writer once examined a faded ledger of the year 1826. It had belonged to the pioneer firm of Joseph Rogers and Co., who carried on business at the southeast corner of King and Church streets until well past the turn of the century. The names of many historic Toronto families appear in the old account book.

Furs In Early Toronto

Men wore top hats made of real beaver skin in those days. One male paid \$3 for a "sea otter cap" — the animal is practically extinct today. Fur coats for ladies were unknown — but many mentions of "tippets," (cloaks), are made and men and women revelled in beaver, otter, fisher, marten and mink, to say nothing of wolverine. Prices quoted as paid for raw furs were very low—five shillings for mink, in some cases. Good fur was trapped not far from the town.

Fur caps were usual winter wear for Toronto men and boys fifty or sixty years ago, and well-to-do males disported themselves in overcoats of plucked beaver and otter, or wore broad fur collars to match their caps and gauntlets. Look at old-time photos. Whatever the weather man may say to the contrary, the winters seemed colder. Stoves, only, heated many homes, leaving frigid bedrooms. Hot air furnaces of the day were a poor makeshift. Street cars were stoveless vehicles on sleds in winter, with pea straw on the floor, and those who drove in open sleighs were much exposed to the elements. Hack drivers, when they could get them, wore con coats, then cheap and popular. As patrons of fur the

CANADA LIFE APPOINTMENTS



R. A. LAIDLAW

The Canada Life Assurance Co. announces the election of two additional vice-presidents and a director. R. A. Laidlaw, secretary-treasurer of R. Laidlaw Lumber Co., and E. G. Baker, president of Moore Corporation, Ltd., both of whom have been directors for some



E. G. BAKER

time, will become associated with E. R. Wood, LL.D., as vice-presidents of the company. J. M. Macdonnell, president and general manager of the National Trust Co., has been elected to the board of directors.



J. M. MACDONNELL

women didn't have it all their own way in days gone by.

About the War on the Western Front and Other Questions

Leap Year, Useless Christmas Gift. About Men in and out of the Army.

In his column in The Toronto Telegram in recent issues, Thomas Richard Henry had the following paragraphs:—

All Quiet We don't know whether that chap who wrote "All Quiet on the Western Front" was a historian or a prophet. Useless We are awarding the prize for the most useless Christmas present of 1939 for an electric razor given to a young lad in our neighborhood. It is the wrong cycle and won't work here.

Leap Year It certainly is a bad break having Leap Year come in 1940. Who wants an extra day in any year in which a war is being fought? There is, of course, the compensation that the men can escape by going to war.

Sh-sh-sh The army has a nasty little habit of kicking a man out after an X-ray examination, but refusing to tell him what the trouble happens to be—or so we are told. This gives him the alternative of going to the expense of having a private X-ray taken or worrying himself grey wondering where and how soon he is going to drop dead.

Swaps A local Motor Car sales company received the following letter from Pickering: "Ernie Clayton, Dear Sir: I am interested in a used Truck about a ton. I want something that I can put about a nine or ten foot Pick up box on with detachable side racks put in a couple of cows or a horse etc. 30-31-32. I don't mind if its not a good paint job on it or a bump or too in fenders as long as good motor tires cab and fairly cheap to operate, I have a list of goods that I want to trade in as the down payment one new bathrobe never used one pair night slippers never used one pair breeches never used one suit case used once one farm stock pump used one car heater used one pair truck chains. I would say that if you didn't get a chance to dispose of these articles I would take them of your hands at a later date if you can handle same why let me know what you have."

The Longest Way Round "Sorry," said the chief of the Humber heights as he led his clan to the downtown area this morning, "we'll have to go around by Brown's line to get to the Lake Shore road." "Why?" we all asked in perfect unison. "Because Mr. Downey doesn't want us in Swansea at a greater speed than 30 miles an hour," he replied with gravity that fitted the occasion.

The Papers Say "Quints Ask for \$20,000 in War Loan." These little girls show a keen insight into finance at a comparatively tender age. "Christian Front Planned to Bomb and Shoot Way to Power and Set Up Dictatorship." There isn't much in a name any more. "Dodge Heiress in Windsor." Who would be silly enough in Windsor to do that? "Two Tame Bears Run Amok." It certainly could not have been one of the old army mokes. "Evening Paper Without Ads to be Published in New York." Maybe the local G. and M. was studied to see how it can be done.

Comparative Value People with money who think Canada is playing too small a part in the war can register their sincerity by the purchase of bonds. On a cash basis the chap who sends \$30,000 to war, performs about equal service to the sending of one man to the front.

The Government pays about the same for a loan of \$30,000 as it does in pay and maintenance to a private for a year. The only thing you stand less chance of losing your \$30,000 than you do your man.

Thanks Veterans of the last war can be thankful that the new army is being recruited without benefit of flags and martial music. Many an old soldier has lived in the past for 20 years—and now a newer generation has stolen the spotlight.

Americana "Listening around in bleachers, bars, clubs and club cars, we learn that there is plenty of life left in the old idea that one American soldier is as good in a fight as four or five of any other nation," states a U.S. magazine. Especially listening in bars, we expect.

The Main Essential Movie actress Joan Bennett has just taken part in a thrilling all-night elopement trip. We don't know who made it neces-

sary for the 29-year-old actress and her 45-year-old boy friend to elope, or who or what they were running from especially since Miss Bennett had started experimenting with husbands at 17 years of age apparently without anybody trying to stop her or paying undue attention to the event. After a' another new husband in Hollywood isn't news. But when a twice-married movie actress finds it necessary to elope it may be news. If it isn't it won't be the movie actress' fault, because we read in the thrilling account of the all-night elopement that the runaway couple stopped only long enough to pick up Margaret Ettinger, Miss Bennett's press representative, before starting for Phoenix by automobile. Taking a press representative on a honeymoon has the old joke about taking your mother-in-law along beaten by a column.

Leon Pie "I am a constant reader of your 'From Thomas Richard Henry.' I was

amused when I read your 'lemon pie' article as I happen to work at the downtown restaurant where you had pre-lunch. The chef does not make the lemon pie. It is the baker or pastry cook. A very small percentage of chefs know that branch of the trade. So our lunches are planned in New York and eaten in Toronto. It's a small world.

TOWN OF TIMMINS Discount For Prepayment of 1940 Taxes

The Town of Timmins will accept advance payment of 1940 Taxes and will issue Tax Prepayment Receipts to apply thereon at a discount rate of approximately 3 1/2% per annum for the period prepaid.

Due dates for payment of 1940 Taxes will be as follows:

- First Instalment—50%—May 30th, 1940; Second Instalment—50%—Sept. 5th, 1940

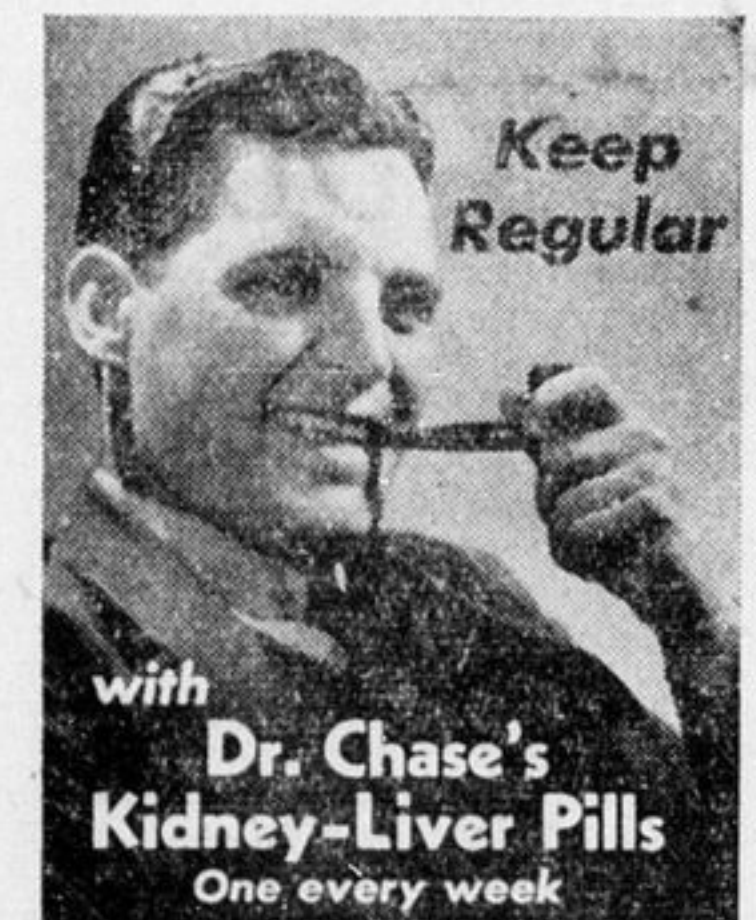
After these dates, penalty of 4% will be added to unpaid balance of current taxes.

Tax Prepayment Receipts will be issued during the months of January, February, March and April, in amounts of \$5.00 or any multiple thereof. No Tax Prepayment Receipt will be issued after April 30th, 1940.

Details of cost of Tax Prepayment Receipts at each period prior to April 30th may be obtained from the office of the Treasurer.

Further discount of 1% on Second Instalment will be allowed if paid in full with First Instalment on or before May 30th, 1940.

A. L. SHAW, Treasurer.



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BANK OF MONTREAL ESTABLISHED 1817 MODERN, EXPERIENCED BANKING SERVICE ...the Outcome of 122 Years' Successful Operation...

Timmins Branch: T. W. TOD, Manager

DOMINION OF CANADA FIRST WAR LOAN \$200,000,000

The Bank of Canada is authorized by the Minister of Finance to receive subscriptions for a loan to be issued for cash in the following terms:

Table with columns for bond percentage (3 1/4 Per Cent Bonds), redemption date, and amount. Includes terms like 'To be Redeemed by Annual Drawings by Lot' and 'as follows:'

Issue Price: 100% and accrued interest.

The proceeds will be used by the Government to finance expenditures for war purposes.

Payment is to be made in full against delivery of interim certificates on or after February 1, 1940.

Principal and interest will be payable in lawful money of Canada. Interest will be payable without charge semi-annually at any branch in Canada of any chartered bank. The Bonds will be dated February 1, 1940.

Denomination of Bearer Bonds: \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000

The Minister of Finance may, at his discretion, authorize the Bank of Canada to accept applications to convert Dominion of Canada 3% Bonds maturing March 1, 1940, into an equal par value of additional bonds of the above issue. The 3% Bonds accepted for conversion will be valued at 100.17% and accrued interest to date of delivery.

Cash subscriptions and conversion applications may be made to the Bank of Canada, Ottawa, through any branch in Canada of any chartered bank or through any approved investment dealer or stock broker from whom copies of the official prospectus containing complete details of the issue may be obtained.

The Minister of Finance reserves the right to allot cash subscriptions in full or in part.

Subscription lists will open at 9 a.m., E.S.T., on January 15, 1940, and will remain open thereafter for not longer than two weeks, but may be closed at any time at the discretion of the Minister of Finance, with or without notice.

OTTAWA, January 12, 1940