

Fur Market Reaches New High Price Level

Tremendous Advances in Cost of Both Labour and Raw Furs

Furs have long been considered to be necessities rather than luxuries in Canada. The long, cold winters encouraged their use and the supplies, until recent years, were readily available. The general level of prosperity in Canada has been fairly high and Canadians have been able to buy furs on any market. In the face of rapidly rising markets, the present abnormal, war-time prosperity has enabled a large percentage of the population to maintain, or even raise, their standards regarding necessities.

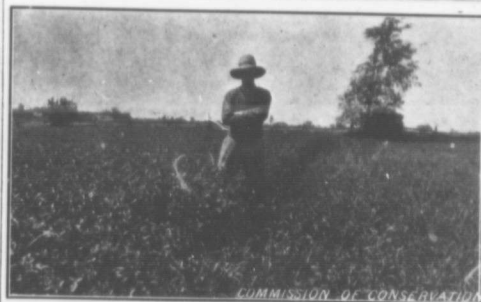
But the line between luxuries and necessities is frequently not very clearly defined and the fluctuations of the market often determine whether a given commodity is really a necessity, or merely a luxury. During the past two decades, the prices of furs have risen steadily. Substitutes were found for many of the more costly furs, which, if available at all, were purchased only by people to whom the price was merely a secondary consideration. Since the war commenced, however, the prices of all furs, including the substitutes, have risen greatly and trade opinion indicates that the high prices will continue to increase. Factors in a further rise in prices, it is contended, will be the import embargo placed on furs from many countries and the further depletion of the ranks of American and Canadian trappers by the war's demands for man power.

At the recent quarterly sale of raw furs in New York—at present, the most important fur market in America—more than \$4,000,000 worth were disposed of. This was the largest amount ever recorded at a sale in New York. Fashion kept a few furs down to former prices, but many others went up by leaps and bounds. Thus, northern wolf pelts advanced 140 per cent for the season, while southwestern wolf pelts showed a total rise of 90 per cent. These instances, were in large measure, due to their being substituted for foxes, the catch of which was short. Muskrat showed a rise of 120 per cent and beaver 105 per cent for the season. With the exception of northern raccoon, which only advanced 15 per cent, the prices advanced from 30 to 140 per cent for the season.

These increases are for raw furs only. When the increased cost of dressing, dyeing, etc., is added, the consumer will have to pay handsomely for the finished product and many may be led to conclude that, after all, furs are only luxuries anyway.—A. D.

A COURSE IN LEADERSHIP

A school for Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) secretaries will be held from July 8th to 19th, 1918, at Eagles Mere Park, Pa., not very far from Williamsport. This school is an outcome of the recent rapid growth of the board of trade field and of the consequently acute



AN EXPERIMENT IN CLOVER GROWING IN DUNDAS COUNTY, ONT.
The crop on the left is sweet clover; that on the right is red clover. Both were seeded at the same time with the same nurse crop. The red clover was badly "winter-killed" while the stand of sweet clover is thick and strong. Under certain conditions, sweet clover possesses advantages over other varieties. See article "Merits of Sweet Clover." Cut No. 173.

need for competent secretaries for such organizations. The modern board of trade has become a fundamental factor in the development of the nation. Just now it is proving an important means of organizing the human resources of communities to meet the issues that have been created by the war. Now, as never before, it is necessary that cities have strongly organized and efficient leadership to direct War Loan, Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., War Camp Community Service, Food Conservation, and other campaigns, to deal with housing problems, to conduct Canadianization work and to cooperate with the various government departments. Chambers of commerce have provided just the organized leadership needed to bring all the forces of the nation to bear on these issues.

Before the outbreak of war, boards of trade had already become vitally important factors in community development. The need had been demonstrated for organized effort by all of the community leaders in a city to bring to the city advantages that none of them individually could secure. The need for these peace time activities still exists, for the development of our cities must continue. The scope of activity of a modern board of trade is as broad as the life of the community itself.

The American City Bureau, Tribune Bldg., New York City, has published for free distribution a pamphlet entitled, "A Call to Men Who Can Lead", which tells more about the school.

IN THE BASS FAMILY ONLY FATHER WORKS

Nobody works but father—
He's on guard all day—
Fins in constant motion,
Keeping the foes away.

In the bass family the male selects a nesting place and then seeks and escorts to it a mate. From three thousand to ten thousand eggs are laid, after which the mother bass is driven away, never to return or to know her progeny.

Father bass takes a position immediately over the nest, constantly

fanning it with his fins and ever watchful for intruders. The vigil continues for ten days to two weeks, while the eggs are developing and hatching, and for a few days thereafter, while the young are getting ready to try their fins. Woe unto the sucker or other enemy which appears too near to the nest! The faithful parental guardian darts fiercely after it and attempts to rip it open with his dorsal fin. By this means, unless he is attacked by overwhelming numbers of carp or caught by the angler, the father bass is able to hatch his brood and care for them until they scatter for food.

The eggs of the basses cannot be artificially manipulated, so that the supply of this excellent game fish depends upon the vigilance of father bass. In normal seasons the basses of Ontario and Quebec spawn from about the middle of May until the first of July. Consequently, during that time every true sportsman will give father bass a chance to do his bit in the way of food conservation, and refrain from fishing over the spawning beds while the fish is guarding his nest, even if it be during the open season.—Adapted from circular of the New York Conservation Commission.

BUY CANNING SUPPLIES NOW

There is likely to be a large surplus of perishable foodstuffs raised as a result of the war-garden propaganda. As this can be fully utilized only by preserving it for future use, by drying, preserving, or canning, this brings up the question of needed equipment and containers.

Last year there was little advanced preparation by manufacturers and retailers. While this, to a certain extent, has been taken care of this year, at the same time the transportation facilities of the country are being taxed to their capacity. Unless jobbers and retailers and householders work together, many will be disappointed. Householders are urged to purchase whatever canning supplies they will need sufficiently in advance of the actual canning season to assure delivery.

Factors in Production

8. Merits of Sweet Clover

Sweet clover is frequently looked upon as a weed. Numerous bulletins and articles have been written about the plant, some in favour of, and some against it. If common red clover is alfalfa, or either, can be grown successfully, one does not need to think much about sweet clover, but, in these days, it would pay to consider.

Sweet clover is a valuable soil improver and makes excellent feed, cut at the right time and made into hay without being spoiled by rain. It will often grow and survive the winter where red clover will kill out. It is true that it is a difficult crop to grow for hay. It must be cut early or becomes woody and the weather, moreover, is often very unsettled at the time when it should be cut. It can, however, be made into silage. It should be cut and tramped very tightly into the silo and weighted, to prevent it from spoiling. If a second crop is desired, or if seed is looked for in the second crop, the first crop must be cut with a high stubble to allow at least a joint or two on the stalk from which the second growth starts.

If you have a poor field, or have failed with alfalfa and red clover, will pay you to investigate the merits of sweet clover.—F. C. N.

GOVERNMENT FURNISHES CLUB ROOM FOR WOMEN

As one of the largest employers of labour in Canada, the Dominion Government has made a commendable move in furnishing club rooms for the use of women employed in the civil service in Ottawa.

Although of comparatively modern origin, the policy of some great nations of industry in providing recreational and kindred facilities for the employees, has proved eminent worth while. The experience of such firms as the Shredded Wheat Co., Niagara Falls, and, more recently, the Massey-Harris Co., at Toronto demonstrates that the expenditure involved results in greatly increased efficiency, as well as in encouraging employees to retain their positions with the firm. One of the greatest losses sustained by many concerns is the constant hiring of unskilled help to offset the general tendency of semi-skilled labour to move from one position to another. Experience shows that this loss is largely checked by improving the surroundings of the worker, both during office or shop hours and during the periods when he is not on duty. The Government might well consider the extension of this policy by making provision for better housing conditions for its workers all over the country as has been done by the British Government in certain large manufacturing centres.—A. D.