

Order of Canada winners

Governor General Jules Léger announced recently that 64 Canadians had been named to the Order of Canada. The major appointments were: Gerald Fauteux, former chief justice of the Supreme Court; Cardinal G.B. Flahiff, Roman Catholic archbishop of Winnipeg; Norman MacMillan, former chairman and president of the Canadian National Railways; Louis Quilico, an opera singer, and Joseph Sedgwick, a distinguished lawyer and member of a royal commission reviewing the criminal code in the 1950s. They have been named Companions of the Order, the highest rank in the honours system.

Mink breeders doing well

The Department of Agriculture reports that Canada's mink market has bounced back to the point where breeders are, once again, realizing a reasonable return on their investment.

Despite the fact that, since 1939, the number of mink ranches dropped from 3,333 to less than 600, the number of pelts has risen. In 1939, a farm produced an average of 51 pelts; by 1972, the number had increased to an average of 1,683.

The total number of pelts produced has increased to over 1 million in 1973 from 170,296 in 1939.

"In earlier years, most beginners in the mink business got started by acquiring a handful of breeding animals, and built up from that point," explains Andrew Stewart, chief of Agriculture Canada's fur section.

"In 1974, entry into the business, on a scale that would hold the promise of some return on investment within a

reasonable time, involves a high outlay of capital, a minimum of about \$100 for each breeding female carried. "This is a limiting factor in attracting newcomers to the industry."

Colour choice depends of fashion

While the demand for mink in general remains high, the demand for various colours fluctuates with the whims of fashion.

"This season all mink colours were in good demand, and the lighter shades, which were difficult to move just a few years ago, were in particular demand by the overseas trade," Mr. Stewart says.

Producers of pastel or sapphire mink, not in as great demand as the higher shades, are less enthusiastic about the 1973 returns.

"Pastel and sapphire pelts accounted for 47 per cent of the 1972 production, but the average returns for these pelts were substantially below the prices realized for most other colours," Mr. Stewart explains.

The average value of mink pelts has risen steadily over the past several years, coincidental with the costs incurred by the mink ranchers.

In 1967, the net average value of a rancher mink pelt was \$11.58. The estimated average price for the 1973 season is just below \$19.

Fox becoming popular

Canada however, offers other than mink pelts to the fur market.

"With Canadian production now on a very modest scale, the once thriving fox-farming industry is usually overshadowed by other branches of the fur industry," says Mr. Stewart.

"However, almost unnoticed, prices for silver and mutation fox pelts have been strengthening since the early 1960s and, in the 1974 auctions, these types benefited from the popularity of fox furs in general."

The top price for silver fox in the January auctions was \$170, while some lots of mutations brought \$304 a pelt.

"Much of the credit for the good prices should be given to the members of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association of Summerside, Prince Edward Island, who have maintained the quality of their breeding animals through the many years when fox furs were in the doldrums," Mr. Stewart concluded.

World sociology congress

Science and revolution is the main theme of the eighth world congress of sociology, the first to be held in Canada, when several thousand delegates from 70 countries meet in Toronto from August 19 to 24. Previous congresses, held every four years, have met in Amsterdam, Evian, Milan, Washington and Varna.

The Government of Ontario will welcome leading delegates at a dinner reception, and the Council of Metropolitan Toronto will be host at a reception for all delegates.

Themes of the 77 working sessions of the congress include youth, old age, public housing, education, sex roles and health services.

Among the internationally-prominent sociologists leading these sessions will be S.M. Lipset (U.S.A.), T.B. Bottomore (Britain), Alain Touraine (France), K. Tsurumi (Japan), G.V. Osipov (U.S.S.R.) and Ralf Dahrendorf (Germany).

Working sessions are designed mainly for professional sociologists and students, but some government and business administrators, as well as officials of social service and volunteer agencies, will attend sessions of interest to their specializations.

The University of Toronto and the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association are co-hosts of the congress. Most meetings will be held on the campus, where delegates will find a fully-staffed reception centre, translation services, and even a pub with live entertainment.

Electrical power mission to China

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Canadian industrialists to co-ordinate future marketing strategies in this potentially important market. The Department has invited two Chinese missions to come to Canada this autumn to discuss hydro generation and long-distance high voltage power transmission.

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