

20th. July 1948.

Dear Mr. Serjeant,

I received your letter of July 11th. on my return from the Genetical Congress at Stockholm. While there I saw a good deal of a Dr. Keeler, an American from Georgia, who is exceedingly interested in mink. On a separate sheet I am sending his address and any references to mink genetics which I can pick up before this letter goes off.

Of course, colour varieties are liable to take the public's fancy and to be extremely profitable for a time, but it appears that several of the colour genes also have a valuable effect on tameness. Naturally the tameness combinations may not be favoured colours, but, as white mink is also in demand, albinos can be used to mask any colour combinations useless for other purposes.

I understand mink have been successfully inbred, though I do not know that this is profitable for commercial purposes. The principal danger of the business seems to be the creation of furriers' rings, who may deliberately organise changes in fashion at the expense of producers who have sunk their capital in large scale production, whose unsaleable products can be bought up and put in cold storage for five or ten years if necessary.

However, you will only want my advice on genetic points, and I do not know what crosses you are exploring. I do not know also whether you have contacted Professor Beveridge here, who has an Institute of Animal Pathology, *for a while*.

Yours sincerely,