

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



The silver fox breeder of Prince Edward Island have to thank the Government, and particularly the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. W. H. Dennis, for appointing W. Fred Burke as Provincial Fox Fieldman.

Mr. Burke has had many advantages: not possessed by others in that for years he was assistant to Dr. J. A. Allen when the Doctor carried out his investigations into the ravages of hookworm and other parasites.

Later as a Canadian National Fox Inspector he had an opportunity of viewing foxes of all grades and qualities in ranches, and came in contact with hundreds of breeders and assimilated much valuable information.

Last week we ventured to make a few suggestions to fox ranchers in the way of caring for their foxes during July and August. Yesterday a rancher held me up on the street and said, "By Jingo, I am glad you gave us those tips last week. Do you know that we were pretty slack about watering our foxes and it took your suggestion to wake us up."

The thought about earmites too was right in line at this season, because we found on our ranch quite a number of foxes that had been treated during the Spring were showing evidences of mites such as shaking their heads and pawing at their ears with their feet.

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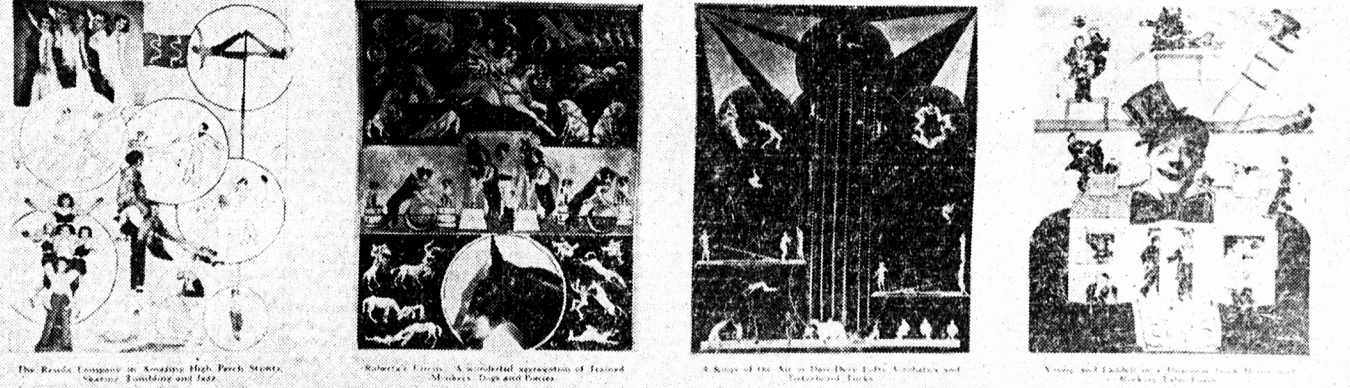
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LT. COL. D. A. MACKINNON, D.S.O.-President J. W. BOULTER-Secretary

Have you ever seen a bit of brown scale which appears in the ear of a fox that has earmites placed under a microscope? If you have not you can form no suspicion of the number of little creatures that even a small particle is made up of.

The Norwegian Silver Fox Breeders Association have sent their chief inspector, E. Rochmann, to Canada to study animal health conditions. He will also visit the United States and Russia after leaving Canada.

The membership of the Norwegian Silver Fox Association stood at 6,147 on the first day of January, 1937. Last year 55 fox shows were held and 10,224 silver foxes and 119 blue foxes were given awards.

Pelt statistics from Norway show that 200,000 silver fox pelts taken off in the fall and winter of 1936 were sold then and this Spring and of these 64,438 were offered through Norwegian auction sales.

A new fox show building is being constructed of modern design by the fox breeders association. It will measure approximately 40 by 100 feet and will have North light and overhead lighting for the fox table, similar to the Paton Pavilion at the Provincial Exhibition.

D. W. E. Russell, D. V. M. of Kitchener, Ont., an authority on veterinary medicine and silver fox problems, delivered a valuable address at the Ontario Fur Farmers conference recently.

of the salient points from the address which appeared in the July number of the Canadian Fox and Fur.

"If we cannot produce a clear colored pelt it is thrown in with the mediocre sundries, no matter how good the pelt is in other respects, and will barely bring the cost of producing it. Color alone is putting Canadian pelts second to Norwegian pelts on the world market today. The redeeming

feature of the whole situation is that it can be remedied. Just when that will take place is of course up to the Canadian rancher. What are those influencing factors which I have referred to? They are the following: Breeding, Feeding, Management. I do not infer that that is the order of their importance, but it is the order in which we will discuss them.

"I take up this phase primarily because we have to know what type of fox we should purchase before we even start our fox ranch. The fact is if you fall in this respect you will be badly handicapped from then on until you cull out all inferior animals or until you breed them out, which will be all unnecessary expense and disappointment. Remember, you can change or improve your feed schedule every day or week if you

deem it necessary, but when you once introduce a certain strain of fox into your ranch it is there for good and cannot be changed unless disposed of or through a long, slow system of breeding. Therefore, I cannot lay too much stress on the breeding of a fox-your problems and worries will be reduced to a minimum if you will only buy animals which are bred right. My sympathies are for the fox rancher in today's competitive market

who buys a mediocre strain of foxes or who has a ranch at home full of only mediocre animals. This is the main reason why the average silver fox pelt has gradually depreciated on the world's markets until we now face the situation of either mercilessly culling out this mediocre stuff or getting out of the business. But it (Continued on page 11, Col. 7)

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