

### Borden Fox Show Nov. 27-28-29

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Magnificent trophies, cash prizes, etc.  
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L-885-11-23-31

### TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



Hats off to President George Brown, the Directors, and Secretary Walter R. Shaw, for their courage and good judgment in holding the 10th annual Provincial Silver Fox Show. It was a grand success, and entries—over 400 in number—exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine. The quality was considered an improvement in several classes over previous years and without question many remarkably fine foxes were exhibited.

But apart from the exhibition being a success there is the uplift in morale to which it has contributed. Had the various fox exhibitions folded their tents there would have been a much gloomier atmosphere prevailing than there is at present. Just to show that those who are carrying off the prizes had faith in their animals it may be mentioned that buyers could not dissociate them and their prize winners even though tenders of amounts up to \$300 and more were offered. These men were astute judges too and came here looking for the very thing that we want to keep, namely, the bright pale and extra pale, clear colored silvers.

Visitors to the show from other parts of Canada were made very welcome, as they should be, because it means considerable of a sacrifice of time and money to travel from mid-Ontario or Quebec or further afield like Frank Grant of the Hudson's Bay Company, Winnipeg, and Arthur Doyle of the same City, just to be present and see what progress Prince Edward Island is making in its one time monopoly—Silver Fox Farming.

The writer had the pleasure of renewing old acquaintanceship with Bill Ruthven of the Ruthven Fur Farms, Allston, Ontario, probably the best set up in quality in that great province. I first met Bill Ruthven at the Royal Winter Fair Fox Show, November, 1924. I was sitting second from the top of the light medium silver pup class with a rather remarkable pup, fancied by most people more than the one at the top. A rudge in the ribs made me turn around and a tall young man inquired the price of the fox. He was really not for sale but I said to give him a job I said \$1,000. "I'll take him," said the young man, who proved to be Bill Ruthven, and I said I really didn't want to sell him. "You have given your price," said Bill, so I said yes, and he tendered the cheque.

Congratulations to all prize winners, big or little, at the Provincial Fox Show, and very hearty congratulations to Robert Humphrey, Kensington, whose magnificent fox was Grand Champion of the Show. Bob Humphrey was the first man I believe to invent the shed system now in vogue everywhere for the raising of foxes, and how he figured it out I have never ascertained, but must do so when I get an opportunity.

A keen judge of foxes is F. H. Copp, M.P.P., of Port Elgin, N.E. who was present at the Provincial fox show Thursday afternoon. Mr. Copp disposed of the opposition candidate in the Provincial elections a few days previously, and a week prior to that walked off with most of the Championships at the Brunswick Provincial Fox Show, Moncton. Winning with show foxes is no novelty for Mr. Copp, as he does the same trick when he meets our Island foxes at Amherst Winter Fair. Copp foxes have splendid foundation stock tracing back to Bonnieview 41B, George E. Brown's remarkable progenitor.

A few minutes afterwards Art Doyle came along and asked what I wanted for the fox. I said he had just been sold for a thousand dollars to Bill Ruthven. Art said, "See if he will take \$1,500," but Bill wouldn't budge. Later on he brought Premier Howard Ferguson and several other notables around to see his purchase. At the same show Bill bought a couple of wonderful foxes from George Calbeck and later on bought one or two champions from him that nicked splendidly with the others he had. By careful selections and good judgment of foxes he built up his present herd of show winners.

Art Doyle is an Islander who graduated from Prince of Wales College, where he was a very nifty quarterback on the football team, taught school, took a B. A. degree, studied law and is now a prominent barrister in Winnipeg. Art sensed the possibilities of fur farming in the West long before others did, and built up a fine herd in the All Star Ranch. His original breeding stock was purchased from John Hamill of Trench and they were pure Dalton. Then he added top winners at shows until All Star commenced to collect

An exhibit which caught the attention of hundreds of visitors was made by Wellington McNeill and son Alfred of Southport, who had twelve white face, ring neck platinum foxes, and in the same booth from the same farm, the Royal Reoul Raymond, Southport, that were bred from a male owned by Mr. McNeill. These foxes are certainly very unique and distinct from our silvers, have a showy appearance, are well furred and the McNeill strain also possesses large brushes and big white tips. The year-old male and year-old female were outstandingly good, but the pups, too, showed every evidence of being tops in their class.

The good old days when we first started showing foxes are gone, can well remember exhibiting a very fine black which we named Silk Hat because he was so slick and his color was so good. He came pretty nearly being champion of the show. However, at the same Exhibition a black male pup from the Franklyn Boyer ranch exhibited by us, won the male pup championship. Now, blacks, dark silvers, in fact anything under dark mediums, are excluded from the prize list. Why? Because they don't pay the breeder to raise them. But, you will say, doesn't a good medium silver bring a good price today? Yes, that is true too, but a good medium silver is one of the hardest foxes to raise and a breeder will find it very much more profitable and simpler to grow silvers. Time may come, however, when fickle fancy will shift back to the dark necked foxes or even to mediums, but that time is not in sight and everywhere in fashion is calling for silver and more silver and it must be bright.

Women's Wear, New York, had a sale from London dated November 21st, as follows:—The Hudson's Bay Company's silver fox catalogue of 9,403 skins (the original estimate was 5,500 skins) opened this morning with fresh goods selling very well, although there were some withdrawals. Prices are estimated by the sales room to be up 10 to 15 per cent compared with 1938 opening. London is the principal buyer with Italy also active. Some goods were largely withdrawn. Then is appended by Women's Wear the following note:—"The pound today is about 15 per cent below its levels of a year ago, thus making the



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We have private orders for large numbers of fine silver fox furs at prices from \$25.00 to \$100.00.

We have the widest connection in this regard of any firm in the Province.

We take skins on consignment only and from these fill our orders, the balance going through Auction Houses and other outlets.

We have one customer, a manufacturer in New Zealand, who wants 1,000 skins.

We sold 113 silver fox pelts in one shipment forwarded in January last at an average price of \$55.84.

We are particularly anxious for quantities of high grade 3-4 and full silvers. We can handle, however, fox furs of all grades and give excellent service at low cost.

We will be forwarding shipments weekly throughout the season. Advances paid on the usual scale upon receipt of goods.

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foxes offered this morning about the same as last year in American currency. This indicates that prices are exceptionally strong as pre-trends and is also a writer of ability. Mr. Company's silver fox sale opening here today are that prices will be about 10 per cent lower than a year ago."

Frank Grant, Fur Consignment Manager of the Hudson's Bay Company, Winnipeg, visited fur consignments houses in Charlottetown and Summerside this week and also attended the Provincial Fox Show. Mr. Grant is a comparatively newcomer to the staff of the oldest fur house in the world. He has had an active commercial career managing large businesses, and is also a writer of ability. Mr. Grant's visit here is due to the absence on naval duty of Jim Donald, otherwise he would probably be attached to the commercial or management department. Although he has had no extensive experience with furs yet he has put his energies into mastering the details of his marketing so thoroughly that he is ready to give very expert opinions on market trends and probabilities. We are sure that all those who come in contact with Mr. Grant will appreciate his friendly manner and sincerity.

Harry Rich, Manager of the Maritime Fur Pool, Moncton, whose representative for this Province is W. Chester S. McLure, spent the latter part of the week here, saw the judging of the pale silver and extra pale silver classes and championships at the Provincial Fox Show, visited several ranches and generally familiarized himself with the fox situation. Harry is reasonably optimistic regarding the market for silver fox pelts the coming year. He believes that with a larger amount of money in circulation due to war industries and export trade that there will be a bigger demand for silver fox furs in Canada. "In fact I would not be surprised," said he, "if over 80,000 silver fox pelts are consumed in this country. United States will

also buy more silvers and South American countries too, with Great Britain will be expanding markets in Australia and South Africa, so that it may very well be," said Mr. Rich, "that the entire output will be absorbed."

Mr. R. N. O'Bryan of the Wholesale Division Raw and Dressed Furs, Holt Renfrew & Company, Ltd., Montreal, who is buying silver fox pelts at the office of B. Graham Rogers, has had a wide experience with all kinds of furs. His brother Louis O'Bryan, is Manager of the Company and under their guidance the activities of the old established Holt Renfrew Company has been widened, with branches in Detroit, Winnipeg, and other cities. Last year they handled thousands of silver fox pelts including the entire take-off (1680 pelts) with the exception of some show pelts, from the McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Ltd.

Colonel U. G. Dawson, Manager of the Charlottetown Fur Sales, Ltd., had a wire from the New York Auction regarding the sale of silver fox which was held this week. It states that there was a good demand and clearance with price resistance strong for better grades, but lower priced goods sold very freely. The average price received was approximately 10 per cent below November, 1938.

### Sees Smaller Rise In Price Levels

TORONTO, Nov. 24 (CP)—If present price controlling policies of the Canadian Government are continued, price levels will not rise during the present war as they did in the first Great War. W. G. Nicholson, President, said today in his report to the 25th annual convention of the united farmers of Ontario.

The president told delegates that farmers are not so much concerned about whether the price level is high or low but "it is the relation between the price levels which is important."

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## CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING OF SILVER FOX FURS

Silver Fox pelt shipments from us will be going forward to the fur markets each week throughout the season.

We have agencies in London, Paris, Montreal and United States selling furs for us throughout the year.

All furs consigned to us will be insured against loss by fire or theft providing notice giving number and kind of furs, and their estimated value be sent us by separate mail on the date of the fur shipment.

For insurance purposes be careful that the notice be sent separate from the parcel of furs.

Banking arrangements are in effect whereby advances may be obtained at lowest possible rates.

Pelts will be received either at Headquarters Summerside or at Massey-Harris Building on Kent Street in Charlottetown.

If you wish an unexcelled marketing service, consign your furs to

### Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders Association

FUR MARKETING DEPARTMENT  
SUMMERSIDE, P. E. I.