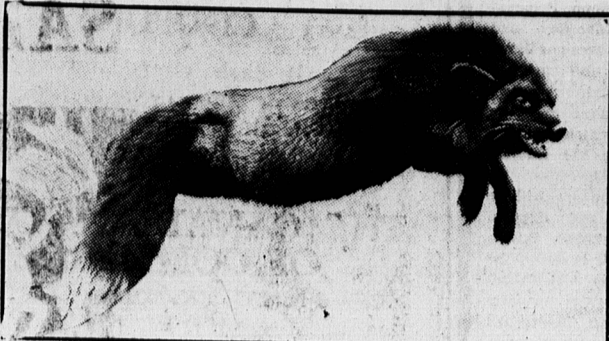


THE SILVER FOX SHOW OF 1924



"MAGIC NORA"
Champion Female Adult Fox, owned by Magic Fox Company, Summerside.



COLONEL DAN
World's Champion Pup, 1924,
Bred by Frank Boyer, owned by
Lt.-Col. D. A. MacKinnon



"CANUCK CHAMPION"
World's Champion Adult Fox, owned by Mr. P. G. Clarke,
Summerside.

Interesting description by
LT.-COL. D. A. MacKINNON, D.S.O., A.D.C.

The Silver Fox Exhibition of 1924, sponsored by the Canadian Silver Fox Breeders' Association, and held in connection with the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto from November 18th to November 26th, will go down in history as one of the most successful exhibitions of the kind ever held. Every show seems to set a new standard of excellence, and in the opinion of many who are quite capable of judging, the show of 1924 brought together a better average of animals than the shows of 1922 or 1923.

Then again, the exhibitors have learned more about the best methods of preparing foxes for shows and to exhibit their foxes to the best advantage. An innovation was made in connection with the judging this year. Previously judging had been done with the owners excluded, the foxes being scored and the winners then compared for places. This year, judging was done in the open.

The judging ring was selected in the centre of the exhibition room, and tables arranged for the accommodation of the foxes. Each contestant brought his foxes to the table where they were lined up for inspection and comparison. This method gave every man an opportunity of seeing his neighbor's foxes and mentally comparing them with his own.

It was not very difficult in many cases to pick out the outstanding foxes, but some, of course, were so evenly matched that the most delicate details had to be gone into, in order to make the awards. The judges performed their work to the entire satisfaction of the large number of exhibitors, and it will be interesting to Prince Edward Islanders to know that one was Mr. J. Edgar Milligan, of Northam, P. E. I.

Mr. Milligan, it will be remembered, as a young man invaded the fastnesses of the North, and while in Alaska saw the possibilities of silver fox farming. He allied himself with Mr. George Morrison, and together they established a fox farm in Alaska later bringing them to Prince Edward Island, where by selection and inbreeding they established the celebrated Milligan and Morrison strain of Alaskan Silver Foxes. These became famous for their pelts and also for the high quality of the breeding stock. These gentlemen have been among our most successful exhibitors. This year Mr. Milligan yielding to the importunities of directors of the Canadian Silver Fox Breeders' Association gave up his exhibit and took up the honorable task of judging. The announcement that he would act was good news for all exhibitors, in his business career and daily life he has won for himself a reputation for fairness and integrity that will be a most valuable asset to him through life. He is a man of strong convictions, and does not hesitate to express them, and with his knowledge of foxes, which is equal to any man's in America, Mr. Milligan was the ideal man for the open form of Silver Fox judging.

Associated with him was Mr. Vincent Fayle, of Barries Limited, Toronto, who had won golden opinions from the fox breeders in his association with Mr. Walter Grant, of Charlottetown, judging at the 1923 fox show.

I might mention here that Mr. Grant had been unanimously selected as judge with Mr. Fayle, but he could not spare the time to act. Mr. Fayle is a man of very fine personality and character, and is also an extremely good judge of foxes. His gentlemanly manner and the trouble he took made him a general favorite. No better tribute could be made to the work of the judges than their unanimous endorsement at a meeting of the exhibitors held after the show. In the exhibition there were some 326 foxes, about 190 of which came from fox farms in Prince Edward Island, mostly from Summerside, Charlottetown having three exhibits, comprising about forty foxes. Ontario was well represented this year. Fox farming has grown tremendously in the last three years in the banner Province of Canada. It was gratifying to all Prince Edward Islanders to see their friends in Ontario winning a number of prizes. I think, if I remember, twelve in all. This will mean added inspiration, and will make an increased demand for foxes now that it has been demonstrated that Ontario can produce prize winning foxes. In the adult classes foxes shown from Ontario were the product of Prince Edward Island, and the pups shown were the product of Prince Edward Island for-bears, so that we have a claim on them.

The organization of the exhibition was largely in the hands of Mr. J. H. Prichard, of Summerside, who came to Toronto a week in advance of the exhibitors and made the final arrangements for accommodation, etc. Mr. Prichard did his work well and the new home in the main building was one that instantly appealed to all, as it was extremely comfortable with perfect light and, in fact, could not be improved upon.

Too much praise cannot be given President J. A. Webster, of Charlottetown, who was indefatigable in establishing the competitors and smoothing away difficulties, and getting the show under way to a good start. Every exhibitor was grateful to Mr. Webster for the interest he displayed and the kindnesses shown, with no reward for himself—he worked for others. He gave his time and energy unsparringly to make the exhibition a real success. The friendly atmosphere he created will long be remembered with pleasure. He would be a tremendous loss in his present position were he to vacate it.

The inspection of the foxes for health was looked after by

Dr. J. A. Allen, of the Dominion Health of Animals Branch, who gave all the foxes a thorough inspection before they were permitted to enter the cages. Dr. Allen's work continued every day, and was a safeguard to those who had their valuable stock on exhibition.

Mention might be made here of the work done by Mr. George McCallum, of Summerside, P. E. I., who assisted President Webster in connection with the clerical details of the show. The number of visitors who actually viewed the foxes is estimated at 35,000. This is a conservative estimate and was probably exceeded.

Judging commenced on Tuesday and was concluded on Friday afternoon. The prize list called for four prizes, but owing to the large number of competitors it was felt that added prizes should be given, so that 5th, 6th and even 7th prizes were awarded in some classes. This was an excellent move and was greatly appreciated. The greatest interest was evidenced, the judging ring being surrounded by fox ranchers from all over the United States and Canada, who watched the judges' every move in order to learn something more about what constitutes a high class fox.

Excitement ran high as the world's championships were being awarded, and we recall one particularly interesting scene when Peter G. Clark's male fox, Champion of its class, was competing with Magic Nora, exhibited by Mr. John A. Lea, Summerside, for the world's championship. Mr. Clark's male was a magnificent animal, a real champion in every sense, and Nora was also a wonder, and it was not until nearly twenty minutes had elapsed that the judges gave the decision to Mr. Clark. The excitement was intense. The ring was surrounded by spectators. Fox men who have made a study of silver foxes their life's work were there as keen critics to see who would get the decision. You could hear a pin drop, so tense was the silence. Then the tension was all relieved when Judge Milligan nodded to Mr. George McCallum to place the red ribbon on Canuck Champion. Three cheers arose for the victor, it echoed and re-echoed throughout the building. Mr. Clark had won the world's championship for adult foxes, a truly wonderful achievement. The next world's championship to be disposed of was for the best pup of 1924, but in this there was no excitement, as the contestants were both owned by Col. D. A. MacKinnon, of Charlottetown; P. E. I., the male pup being the best male pup of 1924 and the female pup being the best female pup of 1924. The judges were just as particular, however, as if the trophy for competition was between two different individuals and the verdict finally rested with the black male pup known as Colonel Dan. This is a magnificent specimen and one of the finest of its kind ever bred. It has lustrous sleek black colored fur running right back over the hips with an unmatched sheen and lustre and perfect color. It had a beautifully clear white tip and was a worthy champion. Mr. Franklyn Boyer, of Bonbury, P. E. I., was the breeder.

In mentioning the success at the fair we cannot help congratulating Mr. Peter G. Clark, exhibiting his own and the Pure Canadian Fox Co.'s foxes, of which he is the manager. He carried off the largest amount of prize money, a total of \$380 out of \$1,580.

The success of the Pure Canadian Company is largely due to the intelligence and determination of Mr. Clark. A romantic story could be written about this company. One that would rival fiction, but instead of fiction it would be truth embellished with instances, almost difficult to believe.

In 1913 Mr. Peter Clark heard that there was a very valuable female fox that had been caught in the wilds of Northern Alberta, coming to Prince Edward Island. Mr. Clark, with others, started out to meet the fox and purchased it in Montreal. Foxes have come and gone, many of them, to Prince Edward Island, but the Alberta fox bought on that day will go down in history as one of the greatest the breed has ever known. Mated with a Dalton dog, she was the foundation of the prize winning strain now known so well throughout the world as Pure Canadian. Many others have had good breeding foxes, and have through lack of foresight allowed them to fall and to sink into mediocrity. Not so did Mr. Clark. A few pelts on the market of 1916 showed him that he had a strain worth cultivating and with studied determination he advanced towards the goal of achievement, where he is today. He is one of the greatest prize winners in the world, if not the greatest. Next to Mr. Clark in winners is Col. D. A. MacKinnon, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., who exhibited twenty foxes and won nineteen prizes, the total cash value being \$350.00. The Colonel was strong in the pup class, the pups being remarkable for their uniform and high grade character. Included in the Colonel's exhibit were those purchased from Mr. Franklyn Boyer, whose stock he has utilized on his own ranch for several years. Between the Colonel and Mr. Boyer there is a warm personal friendship and admiration. Each recognizes the other's qualities and together they make a fine combination. Among the world's leaders

is the Magic Silver Fox Co., of Summerside, whose exhibits are always made by Mr. John A. Lea, and whom there is no better judge of foxes, and to whom with his likeable personality came the honor of winning the female adult championship. Various other prizes also fell to the Magic Company, whose foxes are world known and celebrated.

Particularly pleasing to many was the fact that the veteran breeder, Mr. Benjamin I. Rayner, of Summerside, P. E. I., had an exhibit of his own, and Rayner International Co., Ltd., foxes. Mr. Rayner's success in breeding has been an inspiration to many others to enter this fascinating industry and the fact that they won two first and other prizes shows that he has not lost the art of breeding silver foxes. The exhibit of Messrs. B. Graham Rogers and George A. Callbeck, of Summerside, was handled in his usual capable manner by Mr. George Callbeck. Mr. B. Graham Rogers was prevented from attending the earlier part of the exhibition on account of important business engagements on the Island. These men had a fine exhibit of foxes, and with twenty foxes shown won seventeen prizes. A particularly handsome pale silver young female of Mr. Callbeck's that won first prize was greatly admired and was purchased at a high price by a Western breeder. When it comes to exhibiting foxes and preparing them for shows, Mr. Callbeck is probably premier of them all. Mr. B. Graham Rogers is favorably known all over the fox world as "The Old Reliable," and he has won a very fine reputation in the fox business.

Other successful prize winners were Captain F. W. Peters, of Summerside. Probably what was more gratifying to Captain Peters than his own success was the fact that parties in Ontario that he had sold foxes to won prizes with these foxes and their pups. As a result Mr. Peters made some good sales, and is assured of many others in the future.

Mr. Ray Tanton, of Summerside, P. E. I., had a nice exhibit and was also a prize winner.

The only exhibit from Charlottetown with the exception of Colonel MacKinnon's was one by Mr. J. B. Rombough, who has moved his foxes from Prince Edward Island and is about to start a new ranch near Niagara Falls. Mr. Rombough's foxes were fine, but not having been in a position to give them any special care this year through absence he did not enter the prize list.

Mr. W. L. McEachern, Mermaid, P. E. I., for whom Mr. Rombough exhibited some foxes, was the winner of a prize, which is gratifying to Mr. McEachern.

In mentioning prize winners I had almost overlooked Mr. George E. Brown, with exhibits of his own and the George E. Brown Fur Company. The exhibit was a small one, but the quality was fine, winning two prizes.

Another successful exhibitor, winner of the dark silver female pup class, was the Western Silver Fox Company, of Kensington. She was a very beautiful black silver female pup.

This cleans up the prize list with the exception of \$180.00 won by Ontario. Ontario did not succeed in winning a first, but it won two 2nd's, one 3rd and three 4th's, and some minor prizes. As mentioned before this was particularly gratifying to the Island boys who are anxious to see more competition from outside points.

In awarding credit where credit is due we must in all fairness state that Summerside, with that enterprise and energy which is characteristic of its business houses, and seems also to be possessed by its fox ranchers placed on exhibit the greatest number of foxes, and walked off with the greatest number of prizes. Of the \$1,580.00, they won \$960.00,—a truly remarkable achievement, which elicits our admiration and congratulations. These boys have the right idea. They have a good thing and they are prepared to show it to the world, and as a result they have stamped the name of Summerside throughout America as the premier fox producing section of the world.

At the conclusion of the show moving pictures were taken showing the judging of the foxes by comparison, and the award of the World's Championships for adults and pup foxes, judging of furs, pictures of the World's Champions, pictures of prominent men in the industry, etc. This picture was taken by the Pathe people under the direction of Mr. J. Edgar Milligan, and will be exhibited in many sections to the world. An effort will be made to put them on in Charlottetown and Summerside in the near future.

NOTES.

Mr. Rex Dawson had an exhibit of five foxes, and has the distinction of being the youngest breeder in the show. Mr. Dawson was very enthusiastic about the Fox Show and its educational value to fox breeders.

Mr. Ernest McNutt, of Charlottetown, represented the Swift Canadian Co., and the Fox Men are deeply indebted to him and his company for their many attentions and free fox food supplied.

The Canadian National Railway System passenger and express arrangements were perfect. A special Pullman car gave

"A LUDICROUS ARTICLE"

Sir,—I noticed in the last issue of the Patriot a rather ludicrous article headed "The Union Debate" in which some very absurd statements are made. The Unionists are much better at "debate" in such an article as the above than they are when we get them on the floor. I would like to examine the items set down in this so-called "debate" and get the real facts of the case into the limelight.

FOR UNION

A.—The saving of men and money. As a matter of fact without the Union, we have many more men than can be given appointments. How do the Unionists propose to deal with the surplus when Union is realized? Already they have mooted the idea of sending two men to some of the larger congregations, and, of course, that will call for two salaries. This is one of their methods of saving men and money.

B.—The moral power of a great United Church. What do they mean by "great" in this connection? Bigness is not greatness. And is the United Church going to be so big after all? There will be the Methodist Church. The Congregational Church is a mere handful, and its most influential congregations have shown no desire to be swallowed up. Three-fifths of the Presbyterian church belong to Ontario and Ontario has shown a decided dislike for Union. At the best the Unionists will hardly take more than half of the membership if, indeed, they get so many. Therefore, the Union Church is not going to be quite so formidable as its devotees would have us think. As to its "Unity", that is problematical and remains to be demonstrated. The Methodists have sought to have the new body acknowledged as "Methodist" and I think have succeeded. The Presbyterian wing has managed to get the United Church accepted as "Presbyterian." We are also told that "there will be no difference." So that, really, on the face of things there is a lack of cohesion that compels a thinking person to conclude that time alone can demonstrate just how far this Union constitutes Unity.

C.—The pledge already given to other Churches. If the leaders pledged the Presbyterian Church to Union they did so on their own initiative. The votes of the people clearly indicated that they were not deeply interested in the matter, and wise men would have read in their attitude that the time had not come for such a move. Some of them plainly said as much. But the anxiety of the Unionists to keep pledges with other churches is strangely at variance with their conduct toward their own. Time and again the pledges given by the leaders to the people have not been kept and this to real Presbyterians, at least, has taken away almost all the moral value of the movement—"A burnt child dreads the fire."

D.—The spiritual credential a united church would present to the heathen world. Here we have one of the grotesque arguments which have been used to create a feeling favorable to Union in the minds of those who are interested in Missions. What are the facts? Does heathendom know anything about divisions, or is it a solid unit? Are its main branches, even, without division? A Mohammedan scholar tells us of the seventy-three sects of Islam, and as far as Buddhism goes its divisions carry us well over the two hundred mark. They are not strangers to the fact of division. Some of the men who have spoken on the subject have tried to convey the idea of the various denominations, quarrelling over the bodies and souls of the heathen in such fashion as merely to confuse and disconcert the objects of their proselytizing zeal. What are the facts? The Canadian Methodist Church has its great mission field in Japan, where the Presbyterian Church in Canada has no mission. The Presbyterian Church has mission in India, where the Methodist Church has no field. In China, under the "comity" of Missions each confines its evangelizing effort to its own particular province. The Canadian Congregational Church does its missionary work in Africa. So that there is none of the overlapping we are led to suppose as existing on our mission fields. What really gives pause to the heathen is not our divisions, of which they know but little, and could quite readily understand even if they knew more. The one astonishing feature to them is the excellence of our religious statements and the poverty of our religious practice.

E.—The Answers to the Prayers of the King and Head of the Church. I think I know my Bible fairly well, but nowhere do I find Jesus praying for organic union. He did pray for spiritual unity, and this has been attained perhaps to a higher degree than some Unionists might think. If we were to put St. Bernard and St. Gregory in the same organization with Knox and Wesley we can scarcely imagine them enjoying a close fellowship, but who will doubt their spiritual unity and their acceptance by the great Head of the Church as chief servants of His. There is not a single scholar of note who will say that our Lord referred to organic union when He prayed, "that they all may be one." Why not complete the sentence "Even as Thou, Father, art in Me and I in Thee." To try to persuade the people that Jesus had organic union in mind when He uttered this prayer is an abuse of our privilege and place as teachers. Let us face the facts! If the members of the uniting churches are not already members of Christ, and therefore in spiritual unity, no act of our Dominion Parliament, and no decision of the Presbyterian General Assembly can make them so. I hold to the spiritual unity of all believers in Christ, no matter what form the outward expression of that belief may take.

I am, Sir, etc.,

GEORGE C. TAYLOR.

P.S.—I shall reply to the Presbyterian side of the "debate" in the near future.

through transportation to Toronto and return, in charge of the genial and efficient Mr. Charles Meikle. The foxes were conveyed in a special steel express car, and taken direct to the building and placed in the room by the Express Company. This was done under the direction of Mr. S. O. Martin, who is immensely popular with the Island fox shippers.

The care of the foxes en route, and in the building was entrusted to Mr. H. S. Oulton and Mr. Joshua Gallant, who handled the valuable animals perfectly.