

# Much Lively Discussion At Fox Breeders' Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

was continued and while the entry list showed some decrease, the show was a success and was well attended. The Fox Exhibition held in connection with the Maritime Winter Fair at Amherst in November of last year was the first fox show of any importance held in that vicinity, and was a pronounced success and it is hoped will become an annual feature. The Association also assisted the Western Fox Show which was held in Saskatoon following the Royal Winter Fair. The entry list and attendance were both gratifying to those in charge and seem to confirm the view that Regional Shows are serving a useful purpose and should be supported, when conditions are propitious.

It is to be regretted that more ranchers do not take the opportunity of exhibiting their foxes and thus having them compared with others as we feel justified in stating that were they to do so, many of them would take steps to improve the quality of their breeding stock and thus increase their monetary returns from their fox ranches.

The number of pelts consigned to the Marketing Department again showed a healthy increase, being nearly 22,000 which was double that received the year before. As the means of disposing of silver fox furs followed by your Marketing Department in the past prohibited the disposal of any quality of furs in time for them to reach the Southern European market in adequate time for the first of the season there, it was decided to consider ways and means of overcoming this handicap. As a result, partly of your Association's efforts, an auction sale was arranged in Montreal for the latter part of December which proved a success. We also arranged for a silver fox sale in Paris about the middle of January, which was well patronized by buyers from the South of France, Switzerland and Italy. The results of these two early sales were so obviously successful that we are assured the London auction house will make arrangements next year to give silver fox a better place in the auctions, and hold more frequent sales of our product in future.

The value to the fox breeders of having more sales should be considerable as if auctions are held at shorter intervals, the actual manufacturer and retailers of furs will be better able to buy their requirements at the sales, whereas in the past, they have largely had to let the special dealers do the buying at the auctions and obtain their requirements from such dealers, thus adding an unnecessary handling charge to the spread between what the fox rancher receives and the user pays.

Of the 21,920 furs received, we bid in 3,228. Of the buy backs, we resold at later sales, 2,768. We now have on hand 646 which represents less than 3 per cent. of our receipts. These we expect to move off gradually.

It is clearly apparent that the buyers of silver fox furs are showing a decided preference for furs where the black is of a clear blue black color and we would strongly advise every rancher to concentrate on seeing that his foxes which are to be pelted are as clear in color as he can get them this Fall and we think many ranchers would be well advised to consider replacing breeders whose progeny shows a brownish tinge. There is no gain saying the fact that the prices for silver fox pelts of better than average quality have declined gradually during the year and while such a situation cannot be viewed with anything but concern, the fact should not be overlooked that although silver fox pelts have dropped in price, they have not suffered as severely as most other raw products, and that there is an active market at present prices, which assures the cleaning up of last year's production before the new crop is available. Very few other producers of raw products are in such a position, which gives good grounds for confidence regarding the coming season and the future.

During the past calendar year, your President visited every Province of the Dominion and met representative groups of ranchers from each Province. The breeders were thus given an opportunity of explaining their points of view and he was able to clear up numerous misconceptions which had been causing dissatisfaction.

For some years the Association has been employing an adviser of freight matters with a view to obtaining reductions in freight charges on fox feeds, etc. The benefits obtained have not been commensurate with the cost and as under present conditions no controlling body is likely to favor reducing the revenue of the Canadian Railways, it was

decided to defer further action until some more propitious time.

The advisability of continuing to advertise with a view to encouraging the sale of live animals for breeding purposes, was carefully considered with the result that all such advertising was discontinued. It was felt, however, that the Association should concentrate on endeavoring to educate people with regard to the beauties of good silver fox furs. With that end in view an exhibit of high class silver fox pelts was conducted at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto last year. The interest taken in the exhibit was gratifying and we have reason to believe that many people who bought silver fox since that time insisted on better quality ones, as a result of what they saw and learned at your booth. An exhibit was also held in the Canadian section of the British Empire Exhibition, which was opened by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales in Buenos Aires last March. This afforded a splendid opportunity of showing the beauties of silver fox furs to people who in normal times are regarded as the greatest buyers of luxuries of any nation in the world. We have already as a result of contracts made by Mr. Milligan, who so capably represented the Association in Buenos Aires, made two small shipments to South America and we anticipate next season to make some sizeable sales there.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Assets	
Expenditures on behalf of	
1931 business	\$ 646.96
Accounts Receivable	541.08
Petty Cash	4.21
Equipment	2,710.15
	\$ 3,902.40
Liabilities	
Canadian Bank of Commerce	
over draft	\$ 700.93
Accounts Payable	2,512.11
Balance Operating A/C	689.36
	\$3,902.40
Operating Account	
Balance December 31, 1929	\$ 1,346.55
Association charges to shippers	
per	11,068.55
Commissions charged	39,683.50
Interest and Exchange	24.61
	\$52,123.21
Insurance, Freight, Packing cases	6,650.06
Cleaning, etc.	2,840.53
Commissions paid	29,043.00
Salaries	5,588.32
General expense	5,313.94
Balance	689.36
	\$52,123.21
Revenue	
Canadian National Live Stock Records—	
Registrations and transfers, etc.	\$ 201,717.32
Memberships	33,430.00
Sale of Herd Books	522.00
Interest on Bank Deposits	1,496.20
Interest on Investments	11,412.38
Bond Exchange Account	712.50
	\$249,280.40
Expenditures	
Canadian National Live Stock Records	
Records	\$ 41,227.28
Paid refunds on foxes not registered	6,156.97
Reserve for credits due but not paid	16,000.00
Honorarium to Record Office Officials	500.00
Salaries	4,428.70
G. S. Sharp	750.00
Rod & Gun Subscriptions, etc.	7,622.80
Stamps	215.00
Exhibit of silver fox furs at Can. Nat'l. Exh.	3,214.76
Advertising	1,533.35
Printing and Stationery	1,655.31
Telegraph and Telephone	676.00
Rent	333.33
Herd Books Printing Volume 9	3,077.67
Expense Sundry Items	82,627.67
Board Meetings	1,993.86
Delegations	2,033.37
Annual Meeting	3,768.58
Application for reduction of Express and freight rates	598.00
Legal advice	64.69
Upkeep, Repairs and Depreciation	952.58
Light and fuel	640.35
Taxes and Insurance	312.45
General Regional Fox Shows	2,836.33
Royal Agricultural Winter Fair	4,253.51
Inspection (Including \$5,000.00 estimated to complete)	109,125.36
Share in cost of providing additional land for Experimental Station	340.00
BALANCE	30,138.48
	\$249,280.40
Assets	
Credit balances in Banks	\$ 22,563.33
Cash	6.28
Automobiles	5,621.00
Real Estate	26,698.64
Herd Books, Vol. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	10,000.00
Fox Show Crates	1,534.88
Office Furniture	4,467.02
Investments	227,697.50
Accts. Receivable	3,481.28
	\$302,062.93
Liabilities	
Capital Account	\$ 265,836.14
Reserve for credits due but not paid	16,000.00
Depreciation Reserve	6,487.57
Inspection Reserve	4,836.51

## FEDERAL RESEARCH WORK

As soon as it became apparent that some disease was causing severe losses among foxes, representatives of your Board waited upon Dr. Grisdale, the Deputy Minister of the Dept. of Agriculture and requested that research work be undertaken at once, with a view to ascertaining the cause of the disease and developing preventative measures. Dr. Grisdale is as usual with him, took a sympathetic interest in our problem and at once began to make arrangements for the dispatch to Summerside of Dr. Wickware, whom he regarded as the most suitable man obtainable. Your Board placed an automobile at Dr. Wickware's disposal and made an appropriation of \$5,000.00 to research work so that he should have every facility necessary for the carrying of the work to a successful conclusion. They also supplied animals for research purposes to laboratories in other Provinces which were studying the problem. When it became apparent that a remedy could not be found at once, further representations were made to the Government with the result that an organization to study disease among foxes is being established at the Animals Research Bureau at Hull, Que., to carry on research work along the lines recommended by Major Dunkin, who is internationally famous for his research work on canine distemper.

We take pleasure in reporting that the Record Office have continued to work in harmony with your Directors and that our relations have been pleasant with the fur sale houses and Bankers with whom we deal.

We regret to have to report during the year, the death of the late Matthew Snow, who as a Director of your Association gave liberally of his time and whose wide experience and acumen were always at the disposal of your Board. Mr. W. K. McGougan, who after six years of continuous service on the Board during which your Association grew and expanded found it necessary on account of ill health to resign a little more than a year ago. His health gradually weakened and in January, after a life of accomplishment, passed to his reward, mourned by his friends.

Various amendments to your Constitution have been placed before you for consideration and we hope the members present here today will give them their careful consideration. Those sponsored by the Board are the result of careful study and we are advised by the Record Office that they are workable from their standpoint.

## REPORT DISCUSSED

This report, after considerable discussion, as to whether it should be adopted or laid on the table for further discussion was adopted on motion of Mr. Copp, Port Elgin, and seconded by Mr. Gavin Harding, Charlottetown.

Mr. W. K. Rogers, of Charlottetown, considered that the directors' report was very important, especially under the changed conditions of the fur business during the last year, and members should have an opportunity of studying it either at their leisure or at the meeting. Others supported Mr. Rogers on his amendment.

Mr. Sharp replied that the directors' report was simply the activities of the association for the past year. It is not possible to give this report before the annual meeting as the only meeting of the full board of directors is held the night before the annual meeting and the report has to be passed at that meeting before it can be given out to the members. But the report was there to be discussed if anyone wished to do so. After much argument pro and con the report was passed as read.

The financial statement was next discussed after being read by the Secretary.

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## AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments were brought up. The amendments submitted by Mr. H. S. Murray of Chatham, N. B., and Mr. MacKenzie, Truro, N. S., were discussed first. These dealt with article 20 and dealt with the keeping of unregistered foxes on a ranch with registered foxes. This brought forth much discussion. This brought on the discussion of whether a fox that is registered need be inspected. The registration should be issued on pedigree. Mr. W. K. Rogers suggested that foxes should be on the same basis as cattle and that registration certificates should be issued as pedigree of foxes. Mr. Gavin Harding said pedigree was a secondary consideration to inspection. Capt. Read did not think one could adopt the same measures to foxes as to cattle in the matter of registration and pedigree. Mr. McIntyre of Toronto said the fox industry was different from any other. We must get down to producing real animals and the industry would come back. The industry has not suffered like other industries. He strongly opposed any reduction of standard of registration. The foundation of any industry is its maintenance of a high standard. Mr. A. S. Robertson of Marmal, P. E. I., and Mr. Klingberg of Quebec were also in favor of keeping unregistered foxes on the same ranch as registered foxes. The amendments proposed by Dr. R. H. MacDonald, Saskatoon, Sask., on article 20 was withdrawn by his own consent in favor of Mr. Murray and Mr. MacKenzie. The amendments of Mr. H. S. Murray, Chatham, N. B., and Mr. L. D. McKenzie, Truro, N. S., dealing with article 20 with regard to unregistered foxes and specified penalties, were voted down with a good majority. Mr. Clark's proposed amendments next came up dealing with registration fees in Article 21. Much discussion followed. A great many ranches still take place on this important matter. Mr. Clark suggested that in-

## AFTERNOON SESSION

At the commencement of the afternoon meeting on the motion of Mr. G. W. Myers, seconded by Dr. A. A. Lockhart, the financial statement of the marketing department was read and adopted. Election of officers was next proceeded with. Mr. Thomas Hitchman, Ottawa, Mr. Stephen Taylor, Shogomoque, N. B., and Mr. Gavin Harding of Charlottetown were appointed as scrutineers. The retiring directors were all re-elected. Mr. Sven Klingberg of Manitoba on nomination of the Provincial Association was elected in place of Mr. Doyle who retired. Mr. C. C. Holman of Moosejaw, Sask., was also nominated by the Provincial Association. The retiring directors were Messrs Geo. Calbeck, Summerside; J. D. McKenzie, N. S., and H. S. Murray, Chatham, N. B., Major A. S. Robertson, Marmal, P. E. I., Dr. A. A. Lockhart, J. E. Milligan, H. C. Holman. The full board of directors is as follows: G. Shelton, P. E. I.; L. T. Leeman, N. B.; J. D. McKenzie, N. S.; H. S. Murray, N. B.; J. A. Arnett, P. E. I.; Major A. S. Robertson, P. E. I.; Capt. J. L. Read, P. E. I.; C. C. Baker, P. E. I.; B. G. Rogers, P. E. I.; Dr. A. A. Lockhart, J. E. Milligan, J. H. Lavender, Que.; W. H. C. Ruthven; Sven Klingberg, Man.; C. C. Holman, Sask.; J. W. Myers, Alta.; J. W. Bell, B. C.

## ADDRESS MEETING

While the ballot was being taken, Dr. Wickware addressed the meeting on the fox disease which is so prevalent among the foxes. He also answered several questions in regard to the disease. The loss to date is very severe and the situation is still dangerous, but not spreading so formerly. A great many ranches still have been cleaned up and pups com-

ing along in good condition. In answer to Mr. W. K. Rogers and others as to prevention, etc., Dr. Wickware stated that all dogs in infested areas should be under control. This is important and should be enforced. Careful disposal of carcasses. Another danger from milk from cows from infected ranches and sheep and cattle allowed to graze near infected ranches. Symptoms vary in winter and summer. Every ranch should be made to report at once. The disease is not confined to P. E. I.

Dr. Wickware suggested in answer to the question that it would be in the interests of the fox breeder to forego fox shows this year on account of the disease. Two months after the animal has recovered from the disease he is not capable of carrying it. There has been no outbreak among the progeny of those foxes who have had the disease.

## VISIT OF GREAT VALUE

Mr. Duncan, of British Columbia, next addressed the meeting and brought regrets from Mr. J. N. Bell, director for that province, that he was not able to be present. He said that the visit of Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Snow and Mr. Calbeck to British Columbia was of great value and inspiration to the members of the Association. The high standard of registration by the Association was approved of by members in British Columbia. Mr. J. H. Frichard, of Summerside, next brought in a resolution as follows: On group insurance for foxes, which Mr. Frichard stated was proposed on the suggestion of Dr. Wickware in view of the terrible losses sustained by fox men generally throughout Canada. Mr. B. W. Robinson seconded the motion and also extended a vote of thanks to Dr. Wickware for his valuable assistance in dealing with the disease.

Resolution of group insurance. Resolved that in view of the severe losses to fox ranchers through the ravages of the disease now prevalent in different parts of Canada, and until such time as an efficient method of control is discovered the interests of the fox industry would be best served by a system of group insurance. Be it therefore resolved that permission be requested to examine the records of the Association now on file at the office of the Canadian National Live Stock Records to ascertain the average yearly loss to fox ranchers from diseases in general by an examination of such records covering a period of at least five years, with a view to determining the amount of indemnity necessary to cover such losses to serve as a basis for determining the premium rate required for providing such protection. Be it further resolved. Firstly, That the members of this Association authorize its board of directors to employ for said examination of records a qualified actuary. Secondly, that the cost of such group insurance be met by the establishment of a sinking fund for which purpose a special levy of fifty cents per fox is suggested, bonafide members of the Association only to be eligible for such group insurance.

Mr. C. D. McCallum, who had charge of the inspection department, gave some useful information on the matter of inspection and stated that the inspectors sent in weekly reports of their work and expenses.

Mr. Fremont, a member for Quebec, stated that he felt that we should accept the directors' statement and if not satisfied to appoint new ones and not take up time at the meeting discussing what was past. This was greeted with applause.

Some discussion took place on the purchase of land at the Experimental Fox Farm and question put by Mr. Peter Clark. It was given out that \$2,000 was paid by the Provincial Government and \$2,250 by the Dominion Government and the balance of \$250 by the association making a total of \$4,500. On the adoption of the financial report, Premier Lea addressed the gathering and extended a hearty welcome to the visiting delegates. He congratulated the directors on their financial statement, which in these times of depression was able to show a surplus, and commended their perseverance under the difficult state of the fur situation today. The association had done much for the Island in maintaining one of the basic industries of the Province. The meeting adjourned until 11 p. m.

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