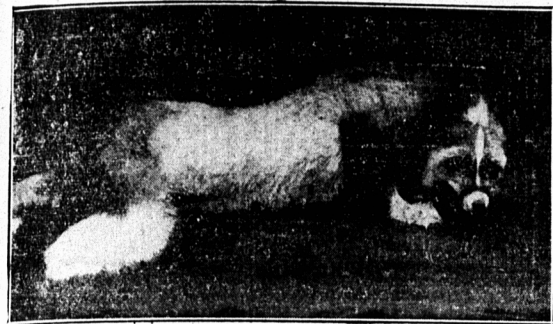


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WELLINGTON McNEILL & SON

Charlottetown Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island Prepared For Its Biggest Show In History

By Walter R. Shaw, Secretary, in Maritime Fur Breeder

Through the enthusiasm and energy of a small group of interested fox breeders headed chiefly by Major A. S. Robertson, the first Prince Edward Island Fox Show was held in the main building of the Exhibition grounds, Charlottetown, from October 28th to November 1st, 1929. This venture which was viewed with considerable skepticism at the time was a tremendous success and soon every breeder and citizen was anxious for a place on the Show Band-wagon. The Show was very largely attended by citizens from all over the province and was handsomely supported by Governments, fox breeders and business houses generally. A grant of \$2,500.00 was secured from the Provincial Government for the purchase of crates, and this along with other contributions placed the exhibitors in a splendid position to carry on. Four hundred and fifty-two (452) foxes were shown on the table at this Exhibition. From this important and auspicious beginning developed the annual Fox Exhibition known as the World's greatest Fox Show.

The following details regarding the Shows are herewith submitted:

Fox Shows Held

1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939.

No Fox Show held in 1931.

No. of Entries in 1929	452
No. of Entries in 1930	692
No. of Entries in 1932	290
No. of Entries in 1933	453
No. of Entries in 1934	492
No. of Entries in 1935	530
No. of Entries in 1936	535
No. of Entries in 1937	458
No. of Entries in 1938	384
No. of Entries in 1939	370

It will be observed that in 1931 there was no Exhibition. This was due to a very serious outbreak of Fox distemper and the directors of the Exhibition decided in the interests of all concerned that it would be best to cancel the Fox Show for this particular year. The following year (1932) was the low point in the Exhibition. The fear of contamination undoubtedly brought the number of foxes

down to two hundred and ninety (290) animals. Since that time, however, the numbers have been reasonably large and the keenest of competition has developed so that in the Exhibitions that have been held recently the quality has been of exceptionally high order.

The first President of the Exhibition was Mr. J. Walter Jones, who was appointed Chairman of the Central Committee in charge of the Fox Show at its first meetings.

One of the first movements of the Provincial Board of directors was to plan for the incorporation of the Exhibition Association. This was accordingly done at the session of the Legislature in 1930 when the Exhibition Association was officially designated as the Silver Fox Exhibitors' Association of Prince Edward Island. This name was later changed to the P. E. I. Fox Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association. Changes were accordingly made in the Act of Incorporation. This was done at the time of affiliation with the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association. The Act of Incorporation provided for eighteen (18) directors representing the three (3) Counties.

Presidents

At the annual meeting following Major A. S. Robertson was appointed President. Since that time the following fox breeders have been among those who have occupied the Presidency of the Organization:

- Gavin Harding, Charlottetown.
- B. W. Robinson, Summerside.
- Brenton Clark, Summerside.
- C. B. Rogers, Summerside.
- F. G. Kennedy, Southport.
- John B. Roper, Charlottetown.
- George E. Brown, Margate.
- L. W. Hancock, Summerside.

Recognizing the need of proper Show Room facilities, plans were promptly drawn up to provide for these necessities. A rental contract was arranged with the P. E. I. Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Association, where, by a five year rental provision, that Association agreed to construct a proper Judging Pavilion. This was in order for the Show in the fall of 1930, in the form of what is known as the "Paton Pavilion". This fine, modern show room has served as a meeting place for the Fox Breed-

Then And Now

(By W. F. Callaghan, President of Dominion Silver Fox Furs, Summerside.)

It is twenty eight years since the writer bought a pair of foxes from Charles Dalton, (later Sir Charles) and paid him an amount of money that would be unbelievable to the present day Rancher. And during those twenty eight years I have experienced the ups and downs of Fox Ranching, and marketing.

From selling pelts on the London Market for over \$500.00 per pelt, down to the present day price of about \$25.00. for equally as good pelts

The boom price of live silver foxes in 1913, when pairs of breeders were sold for more than \$30,000. to to-day's prices of about \$50.00 per pair, it seems unreasonable and I think should have been controlled in some way by acts of Legislation.

The writer remembers being one of a Committee of three, the others being the late Dr. S. R. Jenkins and E. R. Brow who were appointed by the P. E. Island Fox Breeders Association to attend a meeting of the Executive Council, and point out to the Government of that day, the necessity of enacting a law to control the exportation of live foxes, and received an assurance that action would be

taken to protect the investors who had paid from ten to twenty thousand dollars per pair, for foundation foxes.

Sir Charles Dalton was a member of the Executive Council at that time, but nothing was ever done by the Government to implement the promise they made.

The industry could have been saved for P. E. I. if some action had been taken to prevent exporting, as in 1913 when the World War had almost ruined the fox industry, out-side investors came here and bought for a few hundred dollars a pair, breeding stock that was worth thousands instead of hundreds of dollars.

Now take the present day fox industry, is it worth while to keep going? Is the way that thousands of Ranchers have figured it out, and closed out their ranches and gone out of the business.

Of course the European war is the cause of today's conditions, and the writer's opinion is that Silver Fox Ranching is still one of the best industries that a farmer can stick to, as a side line.

It is true that to get fox pelts to London is a hardship just now, but the price of pelts in London is about as good as anywhere else, except in South America. And we believe those who will stick to it and produce pelts from medium to full silvers will be well rewarded, as this class of fox pelts are the most beautiful fur in the world.

Freak foxes will not comment on, as freaks in all lines of animals come and go and are soon forgotten. Perhaps the biggest menace to the fox industry to-day, is the action the Government is taking. Our experience is that almost everything they take a hand in they make a mess of. A proof of this the difficulty the shipping company's last year had, when they accepted, what is known as the Government Pool Plan. Some of the Company's who had shippers pelts sold and paid for last spring, could not remit to the shipper until the Government would give them permission to do so, and hence was

ers who attended the Exhibition held each autumn.

During the first Show a three-judge system was inaugurated to carry on placing of prizes. Mr. Edward Monkley was the first judge, assisted by Mr. Robert Stewart and Mr. Stephen Taylor of New Brunswick. These three judges officiated also at the 1930 Show. This was later changed to a one-judge system and for a number of years now the judging has been done by Mr. George Callbeck of Summerside.

It is interesting to note that all through the years from the time the Show was initiated a number of exhibitors have been attending consistently.

A number of exhibitors who were prominent in our early Show and who gave the Exhibition earnest support have passed along to their reward. These include the late Mr. J. R. Dennis and Mr. W. K. Rogers.

(Continued on page 8, Col 8)

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In well-developed vigorous foxes Highest quality pelts fully-furred, thick-skinned, diamond sheened. Production of regular and large litters

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Charlottetown

not allowed to pay the shippers until about a week ago. Of course the different shipping companies will get the blame instead of the Government whose fault it was.

To conclude we believe those who stick to fox ranching will not regret it, as when Hitler and Mussolini are beaten and peace is again restored to the world, their will be a boom in the fox industry again.

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Summerside

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— Years of Experience —

This combination provides silver fox ranchers with a marketing service which last season secured for its patrons slightly over \$20.00 in average per pelt (including all low grades, pieces and culls) this being 10% above the average price received the previous year. Each year our average return for pelts has been higher than through any other channel.

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Since organized in 1930 over 90% of our volume has been received from Maritime ranchers—75% from Prince Edward Island ranchers where we are best known.

Write for Marketing Plans, Free Tags, Bags, etc. Transportation charges and full insurance coverage paid by us on all shipments to us.

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