

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Last Saturday we gave Part One of the address delivered by Dr. W. E. Russell, manager of the O. W. Thompson Fox Farms, Kitchener, Ont. Today we publish the final installment. We are sure our readers liked Part One and that a great many of them would follow our advice, clip it and put it away for future reference and also do the same with Part Two. We are grateful to Dr. Russell and to the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, who furnished us with a copy, for their permission to use it and for supplying it.

WHIPPING

I think, gentlemen, you will agree with me that we all have too many fatalities at time of whipping. We must have a high percentage of successful whippings to have a good ranch average. I have divided these fatalities into four headings:

- 1. Actual killings due to lack of maternal instinct. (If a female does not want to nurse her pups you can't make her do it.)
2. Difficult or slow case of delivery. (That's another thing - if you have your females too fat they will have more trouble at the time of delivery than the females that are thin.)
3. Starvation due to lack of milk.
4. Neglect - resulting in freezing.

The above four classes will account for 96 per cent of your whipping fatalities. There is not much a rancher can do at whipping time to assist the female. The damage is usually done by the time you tried to whelp her in the watch tower, etc., but with the above classes you will notice three of the above causes which are remedied through the whelping process. The second class, "slow delivery" might be influenced by management of females.

Females that whelp a day or two ahead of time or a day or two late usually lose their litters. Our percentage of killings run from 1 per cent to 10 per cent in adults, 2 per cent to 20 per cent in pups. We examine all litters the day they are born without any loss. Occasionally we save a few, but we do, and at least we know where we are eliminating some of the above leaks by changing our construction of the kennels. That is by removing the nest box or barrel (which are always cold and unwhipping for a new born litter), and substituting the filling up of half the kennel with good clean straw which is much warmer and simplifies looking after the new born litter very much.

The question is often asked: "Do you feed the whelping female on her due date. We do not change amount gradually about a week before, and for a week after gradually increase again. On whelping date she does not get over a couple of ounces of feed. If you notice your female has not plucked herself on whelping date - look out for trouble. Ten to one her standards are not developed and she has no milk.

DISEASES OF THE YOUNG

It is a most annoying situation to bring puppies through all the intricacies of whelping and nursing only to lose them along at pilling or weaning time. We pill our puppies twenty-four days old with a three min. pill and at eight weeks with the 5 cc. pill. At this age they are put into the wire bottomed sheds so no more pilling is necessary unless in special cases. If the pups are normal and healthy, you should have no trouble if this routine is followed. However, if the pups are anaemic or have been stunted by a heavy infestation of worms, complications are almost sure to appear at pilling time which will make the best of us wonder what course to follow next. Around this age you might run into an outbreak of white scours in your puppies if the weather is cold and damp. This condition is very stubborn and hard to clear up and your mortality may be quite high if you do not attend to it immediately. It is not known what organism produces this white diarrhoea.

spleen. There is no cure when once infected. A preventive vaccine can be prepared which gives satisfactory results. Abscess formation on joints sometimes occurs about this age due to infection from feeding a diseased horse carcass, maybe with poll evil or fetula of the withers, or from a case of strangles - three equine organisms (equi septicus) can be isolated from the puss which gathers in the joints. Lung worms and hook worm infection is next in order about this age, so get them off the ground before the infection takes place. Mortality is high from these infections no matter what treatment you use.

PREPARATION FOR PELTING

Gentlemen, it almost seems impossible on my part to talk to you on this subject as this on preparing foxes for pelting as most of you have prepared more good pelts in the past than I ever did or ever will. However, we might mention a few rules we must live up to if we want to get the most out of our pelts. In preparing pelts in the shed type of pen which is the method I presume most of you follow, make sure you have enough feeding room. That is enough single feeders or a large enough feeding trough so that all foxes in a single compartment can eat at the same time. If they cannot get their heads into the feed trough at one time you will teach them to paw at each other, and is much pelting time you will find a patch of snow between the shoulders devoid of all guard fur. If you must crowd your sheds fuller than desirable then you will have to cut the length of the pen to get your foxes. This both keeps them quieter - removes the danger of injuring the pelts when they do eat, and you can get a better yield from the structure of your sheds, as all scratching is thus eliminated. You intend feeding chunk meat or bones in the shed then you should clip the canine teeth of the fox to eliminate wounds in the neck which will most certainly be found at pelting time if this is not done.

RUBBED HIPS

Bedding, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, does not seem to be the solution to this problem. Contentment - comfort - and type of floor seem to determine the amount of rubbing. Although we must not force the here-normally clean fox to rub in some cases, a smooth type of floor is essential - a small wooden floor will satisfy some foxes and does not rub the floor down. Do not disturb pelting foxes any more than is absolutely necessary.

SELF ABUSE OR FUR CHEWING

This habit costs fox ranchers many thousands of dollars each year and we do not appear to have solved this greatest of all afflictions of our industry. We seem to have our own pet theories and all have a high class unless you know the fox. Production problems on the other hand must be solved in your office or house. Pick out desirable foxes from parents of a good producing strain and which can be put in this trait. That is the first requisite. Then go out and select the best individuals from these litters. Do this as early in the fall as possible. Then put them out in clean pens where they can get the best of the good health-giving sunshine next spring. Walking along your sheds in the month of December picking out desirable types of pups without any other considerations is the surest way towards a crop production. It is questionable if pups kept in sheds right up to mating time make the best breeders. Pups will stand the best feeding right up to mating. Adults should be "flushed" for mating. That is fed lightly up to mid-July, then increase the amount of feed until reached in the flush period - it works. Don't forget to treat all foxes for parasites as soon as the frost comes - both adults and pups - you will be sorry if you do not do this.

PREPARATION OF BREEDING FOXES

(With special reference to pups) Gentlemen, this is one of the most important of our industry. We must get good production on our ranches or we are defeated before we get started. We must get young females in condition to breed and raise a litter the first year of their lives. The days have gone when we could afford to keep a female two years before we mated her as was the custom of some of the

Edwin Johnstone SAYS:

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early breeders in our industry. Recent statistics show we are learning little if anything along this line. Our production is not as good today as it was a few years ago. Some because you happened to have good production this year and you have no authority to demand more study than does "quality" its team mate. Don't misunderstand me - quality must be kept up, in fact it must ever be improved, hence the necessity of our live stock and pelts shows. However, as long as we have a number of outstanding breeders who are willing to part with the results of their life work for price, quality will never be a problem that production is in the fox industry. Quality can be stepped up 100 per cent in one breeding season simply by introducing a few high class males if you know how to produce and raise a good crop of pups from them.

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Don't allow your females to get fat nor excessively thin, just medium weight but active. Special individuals receive special conditioning. This you must find out yourself from past experiences. Now, Gentlemen, I think I have just touched on the different phases of our industry. I realize I have told you little if anything new.

Official List of Casualties (Continued from page 3) James Smart (father) 26 Nassau St. Oshawa, Ont. Walkley, John Joseph, P-Sgt. Mrs. J. J. Walkley (wife) 370 Truro St. Winnipeg, Man. Wilson, George Walker, P-Sgt. Mr. M. A. Wilson (father) LaFleche, Sask. Previously Reported Missing On Active Service New For Official Purposes Presumed Dead Frost, Lawrence Andrew, FO. Mr. L. Frost (father) Kingsville, Ont. Maynard, Howard Charles Alan, WO. Mr. A. J. Maynard (father) 4144 West 12th Ave. Vancouver, B. C. Mosher, Keith Maxwell, FO. Mr. R. H. Mosher (father) Lower La Hare, Lunenburg Co. N. S. Dangerously Ill As A Result Of Injuries Sustained On Active Service Main, Henry Allan, Sgt. Mr. Alexander Main (father) Holdfast, Sask. CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS (Maritime Provinces) Killed In Action Nova Scotia and P. E. I. Regiment MacDonald, Tom Joseph, E-Cpl. Mrs. Sarah J. MacDonald (mother) Bay St. Lawrence, N.S. Strickland, Nathan, Pte. Mrs. Mable Strickland (mother) Nells Harbour, N. E. Wentzell, Fred, Pte. Amos John Wentzell (father) Barrs Corner, N. S.

Died of Wounds New Brunswick Regiment

Herbert, Henri, Pte. Mrs. Amanda Herbert (mother) Legers Corner, N. B.

Died Canadian Provost Corps

Heron, Harry Addison, L-Cpl. Mrs. Grace E. Heron (wife) 848 York St. Fredericton, N. B.

Wounded Royal Canadian Artillery

Delaney, Stanley Claude, L-Bdr. Claude S. Delaney (father) Albany, P. E. I. Wood, James Paulmor, Cntr. Miss Mary E. Wood (daughter), care of Mrs. May Wood, 848 Barker St. South Devon, N. B.

New Brunswick Regiment

Calais, Armand, Pte. Mrs. Leona Calais (mother) Rogersville, N. S. Hello, Alfred, Pte. Mrs. Jennie Hello (mother) Jaquet River, N. B. LeBlanc, John Arthur, Pte. Mrs. Christine LeBlanc (mother) Lewisville, N. B.

Slightly Wounded Nova Scotia and P. E. I. Regiment

Carmier, Clarence Joseph, Pte. Mrs. Mary Jane Gallant (mother) 2nd St. P. O. Box 361, Summerside, P. E. I.

Wounded Remaining On Duty Royal Canadian Army Service Corps

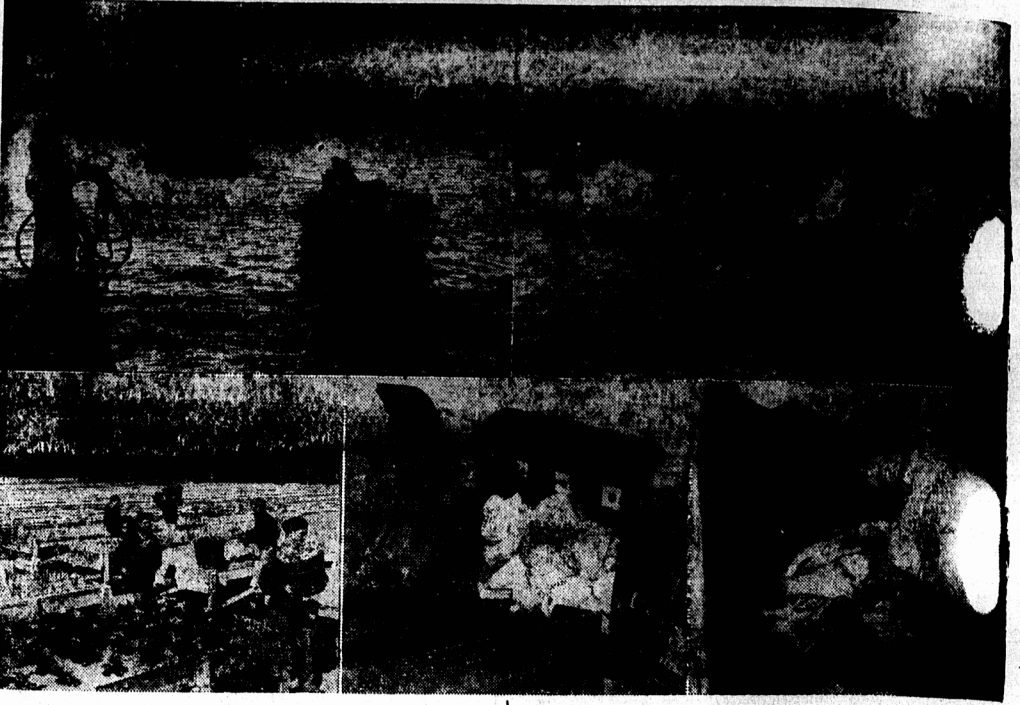
Doucet, Stanley Gagnon, Lech J. Arseneault (father-father), Tremblay Settlement, N. B.

Previously Reported Missing Now Reported Killed In Action Nova Scotia and P. E. I. Regiment

Dennis, Alfred, Pte. L-Cpl. Charles Dennis (father) 19 Co. Ed. No. 6, V.P. of Can. Halifax, N. S. Holm, Gordon, Thylsen, Cpl. Mrs. Felrine P. Holm (mother), Maple Hill, New Waterford, N. S.

MacPherson, George, Roderick, Pte. Mrs. Sarah MacPherson (mother) Newton Cross, P. E. I. Metcalfe, John, Pte. Mrs. Violet Metcalfe (mother) Centre Ave. New Aberdeen, N. S. Penney, Harold Joseph, L-Cpl. Mrs. Domithilde Penney (wife) Thomas St. Scotchtown, New Waterford, N. S. Riggs, Thomas Murdoch, A-Cpl. William Riggs (father) Regent St. Sydney, N. S. Willigar, Gerald Roland Stanley, Pte. Mrs. Hazel V. Willigar (wife) Farsboro, N. S. Nova Scotia and P. E. I. Regiment Alley, George Earl, Pte. Mrs. Daisy Alley (wife) Box 316, Moncton, N. B. Butts, Rodrick, Pte. Moses Butts (father) 244 7th St. New Aberdeen, Glace Bay, N. S. Casey, Antoine Anthony, Cpl. William Casey (father) Box 547, Summerside, P.E.I. Cuff, Harold James, Pte. Mrs. Lucy F. Cuff (wife) Clifford St. North Sydney, Halifax, N. S. Davis, Kenneth Franklin, Pte. Lewis Austin Davis (father) North Noel Rd., N. S. Forrest, David, Pte. Mrs. Dorothy Forrest (step-mother) Box 672, Kentville, N. S. Gallant, Joseph Frank, Pte. Mrs. Margaret Gallant (mother) St. Philip, Richmond Station, P. E. I. McDonald, Charles James, Pte. Joseph McDonald (father) Summerside, P. E. I. McEwen, Raymond, Pte. Mrs. Bella McEwen (mother), Bradshaw, P. E. I. McKinnon, William Lewis, Cpl. Alex McKinnon (father) St. Peter's Bay, P. E. I. Miner, Murray Halton, Pte. Mrs. Phyllis Elizabeth Miner (mother) Port Williams, N. S. Misener, Howard Anderson, Pte. Mrs. Mabel Misener (mother), Woodside, N. S. Munroe, Clyde Alexander, Sgt. Mrs. Marguerite M. Munroe (wife), 28 Dresden Row, Halifax, N. S. Murchison, Neil Alexander, L-Sgt. Donald Neil Murchison (father) Point Prim, Belfast, P. E. I. Ripley, Everett Adolphus, Pte. Mrs. Cora Ethel Ripley (mother), 1308 Prince St. Truro, N. S. Shaw, Ross Smith, Pte. Malcolm John Shaw (father) Grand River, N. S. Smith, Harry Brenton, Pte. Mrs. Vivian E. Smith (wife) Parrboro, Ont. Rogers, Foster Ervin, Pte. Mrs. Stella Miller (mother) Grand Lake, N. S. New Brunswick Regiment Hanlon, Charles Edward, Sgt. Mrs. Mary Hanlon (mother) Albert, N. B. Died of Enteritis Royal Canadian Corps of Engineers Roy, Adolphus, Sgt. Mrs. Mary Roy (mother) South Belton, N. B. Died (Drowned) Reconnaissance Unit Stiles, Rex Howard, Pte. Mrs. Iva Stiles (mother) R. R. No. 1 Moncton, N. B.

LATEST PICTURES OF GOOSE BAY



Life for the Canadian soldier stationed at Goose Bay, in Labrador, is not a picnic, neither is it as bad as it has sometimes been painted. These are the latest pictures from that far northern airport and military area. Top left: At Rigolet, lonely outpost some miles from Goose Bay, Labrador, supplies are being brought by lighter from a supply ship for the Canadian Army. This is an old Hudson Bay Company trading post where Lord Strathcona, as plain

Donald Smith, spent many of his early years. Top right: Goose Bay soldiers enjoying a swim in a nearby river. Lower left: Vegetables being gathered at the Army's experimental "farm". Lower centre: Mail from home arrives at the airport, always a big day for the soldiers. Lower right: Another incident at Rigolet. The Army medical officer attends an ailing Eskimo woman. - (Canadian Army Photos).

Died of Wounds Nova Scotia and P. E. I. Regiment Bartlett, Herbert Henry, Pte. Aubrey Bartlett (father) R. R. No. 2, Truro, N. S. Duggan, Edward Gordon, Pte. Mrs. Anna C. Duggan (wife) 81 Windsor St., Halifax, N. S.

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This Army



"Made in Czechoslovakia I suppose, eh, Herman."

(Continued from page 3) Main, Henry Allan, Sgt. Mr. Alexander Main (father) Holdfast, Sask. CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS (Maritime Provinces) Killed In Action Nova Scotia and P. E. I. Regiment MacDonald, Tom Joseph, E-Cpl. Mrs. Sarah J. MacDonald (mother) Bay St. Lawrence, N.S. Strickland, Nathan, Pte. Mrs. Mable Strickland (mother) Nells Harbour, N. E. Wentzell, Fred, Pte. Amos John Wentzell (father) Barrs Corner, N. S.

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