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Montague Black Fox Exchange Correspondence Solicited L. M. McKinnon, Manager Montague, P. E. I.

BIRTHS

MORRIS.—In Charlottetown on the 19th inst., to Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Morris, a son.

DEATHS

SHAW.—At the Prince Edward Island Hospital on the 20th, January 1914, Mrs. William Shaw of Charlottetown, aged 73.

LATHAM.—On January 18th, 1914, John Henry Latham, aged 64 years, leaving to mourn a sorrowing widow (nee Jeanette McQuarrie), Funeral from his late residence, New Dominion on Wednesday, 21st inst., at 1 p. m. Interment Canoe Cove cemetery.

MCKENZIE.—At Junction Road, El-Hott's, on Dec. 21, 1913, Murdoch McKenzie, aged 83 years—a native of Raasay, Scotland.

TO THE BAR (LIQUOR BAR.)

- A bar to happiness, a bar to health, A bar to honest toil and honest wealth, A bar to honored age through virtuous youth, A bar to reverence, a bar to truth, A bar to worthy service for the state A bar to all that makes a nation great, A bar to filial love and childward care, A bar to purity, a bar to prayer, A bar athwart the path the wise have trod, A bar of hindrance to the house of God, A bar to noble deeds and noble fame, A bar that shuts in sin and shuts out shame, O may they ruin-breeding precincts be Bar of all good—forever barred to me! —The Rev. William Allen

"Foster's Compound Syrup of White Pine and Tar is an excellent cough remedy. It gives instant relief. 25c. Bottle E. A. Foster Central Drugstore, 4026-1-20m3i.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH POWDER 25c. The best remedy for the diseased parts by the improved powder. It cleans the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. 25c. a box. 50c. a box. Free. Accept no substitutes. All dealers or Edmonstone, Boston & Co., Limited, Toronto.

THE GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1914

DIARY OF EVENTS

TO-DAY.

City Magistrate's Court, 9 a. m. Supreme Court, 11 a. m. Meeting Anglican Athletic Club, 7.30 p. m. Annual meeting St. Peter's Congregation, 8.30 p. m. Prince Edward Theatre, 7 to 10 p. m.

The Evening Guardian

A 2nd Edition of the Evening Guardian is now published at half past four o'clock every afternoon. It contains all the latest Telegraphic and Local News, and "B.D." Fisher's famous "Mutt & Jeff" series of humorous cartoons.

The Evening Guardian has appointed at Ottawa who will telegraph the latest news from the capital.

Read the Evening Guardian Price 2 cents - Subscription \$2.00

FUTURE OF FOXES

Today we begin the publication of a short series of articles on the future of the Fox Industry. For many months inquiries have been addressed to us concerning the stability of the industry and the prospects for its remaining a permanent addition to the existing sources of wealth and prosperity in the Island. We have invariably done our best to assure inquirers that so far as the Island's best stock is concerned, stock eligible for registration in Class A or B in the Fox Breeders' Association's books, they need have no fear. The progeny of the Island's best stock will always command high prices either for breeding purposes or for their pelts. Nearly thirty years' practical experience of the oldest ranchers proves this; the tendency in prices has been steadily upward and fur brokers and salesmen assure us that for skins such as Mr. Dalton has put on the market, the return will always be phenomenal compared with the skins from the wild.

The future, we feel confident, need trouble no one—unless the reckless punter, who has rushed into the industry without knowledge, experience or care in the selection of his investment. Those who have taken the precaution to satisfy themselves that the foxes owned by their company are of the proper grade, that they have not been over-capitalized, that the directors are men of standing and probity, need have no qualms about the future. They have a gilt-edged security with the certainty of dividends only possible in other classes of investments from highly speculative transactions. This is the nature of information we supply inquirers, and in order to prevent undue preference in the selection of investments we direct them to our advertising columns, with the assurance that the companies advertising locally are more likely to be bona fide than those advertising abroad where there is no one to vouch for the authenticity of the statements made and claims put forward.

But there are a great many speculative questions about the future which cannot very well be answered in a letter to a correspondent, or in the course of a brief editorial notice. For this reason we commend to our readers the articles now appearing on this page. They may not be able to agree with all the writer says, or approve his argument. But they will find in the articles a thoughtful contribution to the industry which will demand consideration and command attention, because it is evident from beginning to end the writer has carefully studied his subject and speaks as "one having authority."

WHOSE FAULT?

On Monday of this week Mr. Neil McNevin, Mail Carrier between Charlottetown and Hampton, informs us that he was obliged to practically break the whole road all the way from his home in Bonshaw to within a few miles of Charlottetown. In New Haven, one of the most prosperous farming sections of the province, a district that boasts of its good horses—and as a matter of fact owns 40 horses within the road breaking limits—one horse and sleigh had been put over the road before Mr. McNevin reached it at 11 o'clock. In other sections farther along there was not a track, except in several instances where a human foot print from a nearby residence indicated that a man or woman had climbed over the snowdrifts to the mail box either to

post their letters or to see if their mail had arrived—in the latter case doubtless to anathematize the carrier for being behind time.

This, to put it mildly is not in accordance with the provisions of the Road Act. It is probably in accordance with an idea which some persons, for certain reasons are trying to propagate, namely that "the Road Act is no good." If the Road Act was intended to break winter roads and turnpike summer ones while those who, under former statutes were expected to attend to them, are toasting their shins by the fire, then the present Road Act is "no good."

If, on the other hand, the Road Act is intended to provide adequate means by which the roads, winter and summer, can be kept in reasonably fit condition, then the present Road Act is all that can reasonably be looked for.

Section 52, subsection c provides that "the Road Master shall have power to summon inhabitants who own or have in their possession horses and teams, to furnish the same for the breaking of winter roads in their respective districts, although the owners thereof are not liable to pay road tax."

Subsection a of the same section says that it shall be the duty of the Road Master to prosecute "the person or any of them" who have not kept their road in passable condition.

The Road Master is therefore provided with all necessary machinery for keeping the roads in his precinct in passable condition and he is held responsible to the public for the condition in which those roads are kept as will be seen by the following section:

37 Every Road Master who shall neglect or refuse to do and perform his duties according to the provisions of this Act as such Road Master shall, in addition to any liability upon his bond be liable to a penalty of not more than \$100 to be recovered by any person who may lay information therefor in the manner provided for the recovery of penalties under this Act; half of which penalty shall be paid to the person prosecuting for the same and the other half shall be paid to and accounted for by the Provincial Treasurer.

From these, and other sections which might be cited the machinery of the law is adequate. Whose fault is it that roads are left unbroken? Clearly the Road Master is responsible and liable to a fine of \$100 if he neglects his duty.

A few of these penalties imposed would set the Road Act on its feet, and make it effective. Those who blame the law for the condition of the roads will also blame the mail carrier for neglect of duty if he is behind time in delivering the mails when the roads are impassable.

What is needed at present is consistency, and consistency would be considerably strengthened if a few examples were made of those who neglect or refuse to do their duty. The mail carrier is not expected to break the roads; neither is he expected to plunge his horse or even to get out of his sleigh to reach a mail box. The law provides that the roads to the mail boxes shall be kept passable.

THE FUTURE OF FOXES

An Independent Inquiry

BY W. C. ANDERSON.

(1.)

The world's annual demand for furs of all kinds is large, and is increasing. The supply is diminishing. The natural result is that prices are rising, and seem destined to continue to rise. It is not surprising to find, therefore, that a new industry has arisen in Canada—that of the fur. Its development has been rapid, but none of its branches can show the phenomenal rise and success attained by ranching the black fox. Thousands of people have invested heavily in this business—some have invested their all—and so it becomes vitally important to a large number of people to have a closely reasoned inquiry into the industry's future.

There are four great principles which all fox-ranchers must take into account. The first three are here given:— (1.) High-class pelts will ultimately be sold at a price which will meet all ranching and incidental expenses, and leave a profit of 8 per cent. to 15 per cent. for the shareholders.

(2.) It is most profitable not to sell stock as breeders. (3.) The value of live animals as breeders will continue higher than the value of pelts until the first high-class skins are placed on the market, when their values will become equal, and will continue to be equal, or with a slight average in favour of the breeders, until including the time pelts reach their ultimate value.

The first principle is so axiomatic as scarcely to require proof. The inexorable law of supply and demand, with the competition between ranchers, will invariably produce this result. The second principle, at first sight, looks rather startling, and contrary to general opinion. Many instances could doubtless be given where the sale of progeny as breeders has proved highly profitable.

Yes; but is it? A concern just starting buys foundation stock from an established company, and pays a good price for it. This concern goes into the business to make profits, AND IT SUCCEEDS. Now, if this new company can afford to go to the expense of housing its stock building a ranch, and so on, and still show handsome profits, why may not the parent company have done had it retained its own progeny? Figure it out for yourself—the result is surprising.

Consider a company with one pair of breeders at \$15,000. The first year they should have two pairs worth \$30,000 and the second year they should have four pairs worth \$60,000, neglecting expenses. Now consider the case of the same company selling their increase. The first year they would sell for \$15,000, the second for \$30,000, the third for \$60,000, or a total of \$105,000 against \$15,000 for the original pair.

Even with prices falling from \$15,000 to \$13,000, and then to \$10,000 per pair, the results are overwhelmingly in favour of retaining progeny. The increase would be worth \$49,000 in the first case, while the total value in the second would be \$83,000. The only conditions under which it would be permissible to sell progeny for breeders would be where ready cash was urgently required, or where stock as to make it an exceedingly speculative venture for the new company. Looking at the matter broadly, the law as stated holds good.

In regard to the third principle, let us first answer the question:— At what price will Class A black fox pelts ultimately be sold? There is sufficient existing data to enable one to answer this question within certain limits, and to place the price at approximately \$20 a pelt, for the following reasons:— In the first place, ranches of the future will be large ranches, trusts, if you like, inasmuch as they can produce, with good business organization, on a very much cheaper scale than the small competitor. Probably a typical ranch will consist of 5,000 pairs, or more, of the highest grade pedigree foxes, and occupy an area of about 300 acres. Narrow gauge rails will probably run down the various alleys so that all supplies can be handled expeditiously and economically. The expenses of running such a ranch, including food, salaries for keepers and other officials, and all other incidental expenses, would probably be in the neighbourhood of \$150,000 annually, or \$15 per fox per year.

\$15, therefore, applies to breeding foxes, and includes the raising of their offspring.

As a promise on which to base our argument, let us suppose that the foxes were capitalised at \$500 (five hundred dollars), per pair, and that the ranch, with land, was worth \$150,000, a total capitalisation of \$2,500,000.

Now, the annual charge on this sum for interest at 15 per cent. would be \$375,000 which with the running expenses would amount to \$547,500.

The pelts annually produced by this ranch on a conservative basis, would be 10,000, and in order to meet the total annual expense, these would have to be sold at an average of \$55 a piece. (To be continued.)

SKETCH OF QUEEN SOPHIA, OF SWEDEN

The death of Queen Mother Sophia of Sweden, in her seventy-eighth year, was announced the last of December at Stockholm. A brief sketch of her life states that she had been practically an invalid for more than a quarter of a century. She was subjected to melancholia, which necessitated a constant watch being kept on her by her medical attendance. She took very little part in court functions, devoting herself, whenever her malady permitted it, to works of a religious nature. She was a sympathizer with the Salvation Army, whose operations in Scandinavia she followed with great interest. She was also a strong advocate of temperance.

The late Queen Mother was a Princess of Nassau, and was married at Wiesbaden to the late King Oscar II. in June, 1857. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a rare event in royal circles, in 1907, just six months before King Oscar's death.

It is said that the Queen was left a large fortune, most of which, it is understood, will go to her younger son, Oscar, who renounced his rights to the throne in order to marry Miss Eba Munk, his mother's maid-of-honour. The marriage was the cause of the only difference which ever arose between King Oscar II. and Queen Sophia, the latter encouraging the match.

Queen Sophia was born at Biebrich, July 9, 1835, the daughter of the Duke of Nassau and Princess Pauline of Wurtemberg. She was brought up unostentatiously, but great attention was paid to the selection of her teachers and to her general education. Before she was twenty she could speak three or four languages fluently.

She was married in 1857 to Prince Oscar of Sweden, the third son of King Oscar I. and his consort, Princess Josephine of Leuchtenberg, a daughter of Eugene Beauharnais, a nephew of Napoleon. The Prince who was one of the most cultivated princes in Europe, had won a prize offered by the Swedish Academy of Science by a competition in poetry, and had told of his meeting with the "princess Sophia in a poem called 'Mourepous,' which was the name of her father's estate.

Through the death of his oldest brother, Gustav, which occurred in 1852, and the death in 1872 of his brother Charles, who had succeeded to the throne in 1859, and who died without leaving a direct heir, he became King of Sweden and Norway. Both King Oscar and Queen Sophia always manifested great interest in the welfare of the people, and their democratic habits made them the most approachable of rulers. They had four sons, the eldest, who succeeded to the throne at the death of his father in 1907, and is now ruling as Gustav V. married the Princess Victoria of Baden; the second, Prince Oscar contracted a moribund marriage with Eba Munk, one of Queen Sophia's ladies-in-waiting; the third Prince Charles, married Princess Ingeborg of Denmark, and the youngest, Prince Eugene, is an artist, who has made a reputation for himself, not only in Sweden, but all over the world.

For many years Queen Sophia was an invalid, but she continued to take a keen interest in the affairs of her country. During the reign of King Oscar and Queen Sophia, it was said that the Swedish court was one of the most delightful of all European courts, because of the homeliness and simplicity of the royal couple. They used to be at home to any of their subjects who wished to see them on every alternate Tuesday, the only necessary introduction being a personal visiting card which was sent to the audience room.

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PATONS

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