THE SILVER-FOX FARMS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The description "silver-fox" is somewhat misleading, because it tends to foster the belief, except in initiated circles, that the fur is either white or silver grey in color. As a matter of fact it is the trade name for the skin of the black fox, the term silver being derived from the presence of glistening white and grey hairs amongst the jet black. Moreover, in the case of a first-class pelt the long silky brush has a tip of pure white.

It is the lustre, silkiness, and general richness of this fur which render it such a prime favorite in the feminine world. For centuries it has found royal favor, and, unlike many other furs, it is not susceptible to the whimsical caprice of Madame Fashion. The silver-fox is always fashionable.

Thirty years ago it seemed as if this fur would become so scarce as to be beyond acquisition by all but the privileged few. The animal is extremely timid and in its wild state seeks to get as far away from the haunts of men as it can. Its home lies within the belt which is subjected to a prolonged winter such as that of Canada and Siberia, but the choicest pelts have always been those derived from the North American continent.

To the trapper the capture of a silver-fox has always been regarded as the prize among prizes. No gold-seeker ever becomes more excited over a "strike" than does the venturesome nomad of the ice and snow-locked vastnesses upon finding one of these animals in his trap. No wonder, when the pelts are worth about $2,000!

After several years of experimenting by skilled trappers, it was found that the silver-fox could be bred in captivity and, what was more to the point, that the furs raised under such conditions were equal in every respect to those taken from animals caught in the wilds. Prince Edward Island was found to be specially suited to fox-farming. This is not surprising. In earlier days the island was the animal's home; the land in which it flourished amazingly. The air and soil are peculiarly adapted to the animal and the development of a first-class pelt. The air is congenial both in temperature and humidity, while the soil is almost completely free from alkali or lime, which has a tendency to burn the fur and render the pelt hard and dry as a result of the animal's burrowings. Thus the geological formation of the island has also played a vital part in evolving the blackest fox in the world.

The ranch should range in area from one to five acres, and care should be taken to reproduce as closely as possible the natural habitat. The ideal location is a stretch of thinned bush of mixed hard and soft woods providing sufficient shade for protection from the heat in summer and yet sufficiently open to allow the early thaw of the snow and ice. It should be set on slightly raised ground to ensure good air and effective drainage. Above all the farm should be well removed from highways and buildings since the animal is readily susceptible to disturbance by noise.

The ranch, as a rule, is enclosed within a double wall of board and wire-netting, with the inner wall set some distance from the outer boundary.

As a rule the outer fence encloses the whole farm, the quarters for the animals and accommodation for the caretaker and manager as well as watchmen. The facilities include a watchtower sufficiently high to command a view of the whole farm, not only to frustrate the nefarious intentions of light-fingered gentry, but also to enable the animals to be observed from a safe distance during the mating season.

The inner space is sub-divided into pens. The wire netting enclosing the pen must be at least ten feet in height, supported by vertical posts. Within the pen is a small yard or run and a specially designed house or kennel. It is commodious, measuring ten by eight feet, rectangular in plan and provided with a ridge roof. A southern aspect is desirable with the front open to the top of the side or angle posts.

The ranches for the most part are electrically lighted throughout, and are equipped with a complete electric burglar alarm system. In the case of the large farms the personnel comprises a resident manager, a veterinary surgeon, two watchmen for day and night respectively, and last but not least, a formidable pack of watch dogs.

While the fox, like the dog, is not fastidious in regard to its food, the observance of certain dietetic principles has proved eminently desirable and successful. Meat is supplemented with biscuits, rough bread, vegetables, oatmeal, berries, apples, milk and eggs, as well as grass. The general practise is to feed twice a day—some farmers prefer the one-meal-a-day system—and at regular hours.

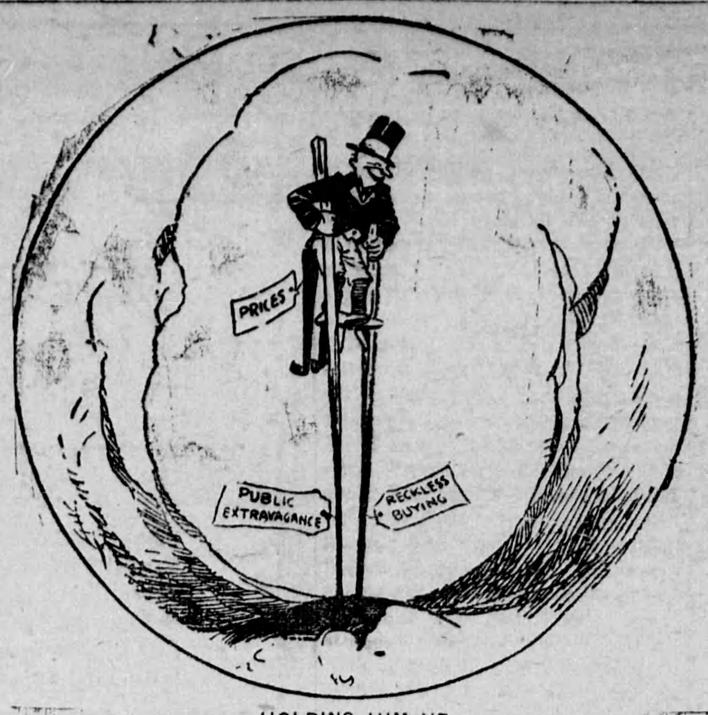
To keep the animals in the pink of condition care must be observed to use only clean dishes. Previous to being killed a special diet comprising boiled barley, oats, honey or a proprietary stock food is given because these foods give that sheen and gloss to the fur which is so eminently desirable. The annual feeding charges vary from $40 to $60 a pair, though large scale farming may enable this charge to be reduced. Still, under the conditions prevailing, the food-costs do not occasion close attention.

It has been found that foxes can be safely mated when about six months old. Certainly young foxes will frequently breed at nine months. Investigation has revealed that a single female will raise from eight to ten families during her life, each litter ranging from two to seven pups. While in certain cases eight and nine may constitute a family, the average is nearer three or four.

To-day there are over 3,000 silver-foxes on the Prince Edward Island farms. The enterprise has flourished so amazingly as to become regarded as the foremost live stock industry in Prince Edward Island. The total silver fox population outnumbers that of all other live stock combined, while the estimated value and this asset, bearing in mind the high prices which are paid for stock, is incalculable. Certainly it must represent several million dollars. From the economic point of view it represents potential wealth, and accordingly is now receiving every assistance from the Provincial Government.

Prince Edward Island fox furs are now as famous throughout the world and an accepted trade mark throughout the furriers' industry as Californian peaches, Fraser River Salmon or Tasmanian apples.

Buyers from every part of the globe flocked to Montreal to the big auction sale of furs which began on March 22nd. Practically the entire Prince Edward Island output was marketed there.



HOLDING HIM UP.

WARSHIP FLEET FOR CANADA

Britain Offers Dominion Ships Worth $16,500,000.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Examination of the report of Admiral Jellicoe, recently tabled in the House of Commons, shows that the British Government is prepared to present to Canada a fleet of ships which, at pre-war prices, would be worth $16,500,000, and at present prices would have a much higher value. These vessels, as indicated in table number four of the Admiral's report, are as follows:

One light cruiser, four torpedo-boat destroyers, eight patrol boats, one flotilla leader, eight submarines and four mine-sweepers. In connection with the gift of these vessels, the suggestion of Admiral Jellicoe is that Canada adopt a naval scheme the cost of which for the first year would be $5,800,000. Of this amount however, $800,000 would be used for the construction of ships, which could be postponed until a convenient date, and $500,000 more would be for erection of defenses, maintenance of mine-sweepers, etc., which apparently need not be undertaken immediately The necessary expenditure to give Canada a small navy, which would have necessitated no capital outlay, will therefore appear to be about $4,500,000 annually.

Admiral Jellicoe's scheme provides for an increase by construction of new cruisers in Canada, but this need not be undertaken until the finances of the country would warrant it. Until these vessels are built the annual expenditure would be between four and a half and five million dollars.

In connection with the manning of the vessels, it is understood that a personnel of 1,500 officers and men would be required for this purpose. As a result of the war the Canadian navy has now 500 well-trained men on the books of the ships, and a number of other men who served during the war and acquired considerable experience would probably be ready to enlist.

Allenby Has Banned All Soudan Meetings

A despatch from Cairo, Egypt, says:—Field Marshal Allenby, British High Commissioner in Egypt and the Soudan, has issued a proclamation which sternly forbids any meetings, proceedings or resolutions by the Legislative Assembly or the Provincial Councils or other elective bodies, or members of them, outside their legal competence.

Violations of the proclamation are to be dealt with by martial law.

Umbrella Harness.

Harness that has been patented to carry an umbrella over a person's head and leave his hands free, employs a belt and shoulder straps to hold the rod up the centre of his back.

MAYOR OF CORK SHOT IN HIS HOME

Latest Irish Victim Prominent Sinn Feiner.

A despatch from London says:—The Lord Mayor of Cork was shot dead at 1 o'clock on Saturday morning. The revolver was fired by masked persons, whose identity is unknown. They entered his residence, and after firing the shot, escaped in an automobile.

A half-dozen men knocked at the door of the home of the Lord Mayor, Thomas MacGurin. Mrs. MacGurin opened the door and the men rushed in. Some of them held her while others ran upstairs to the Mayor's bedroom. They took him to the landing and shot him in the chest. They then fled hurriedly.

Mrs. MacGurin telephoned immediately for a doctor and a priest. The Mayor died soon after the arrival of the priest.

Mayor MacGurin, who is a prominent Sinn Feiner, was interned after the Easter Rebellion.

Twenty-seven police and Government employees had been assassinated in Ireland since January 1 of last year, according to an official announcement made in the House of Commons Thursday by the Chief Secretary for Ireland, James Ian Macpherson.

The latest previous outrage in the Cork district was perpetuated on the night of March 11, when Constable Scully was shot at Glenmire. Two soldiers and a number of civilians were killed by gangs in the same vicinity the day before.

Allies Warn Turks Regarding Massacres

A despatch from Constantinople says:—The Allied High Commissioner here has issued a statement declaring that the Allies have no intention of destroying the authority of the Sultan, but wish to strengthen his power. It also says the Allies will adhere to their intention not to deprive the Turks of Constantinople, but that they may be compelled to modify this decision if massacres and disorders continue.

The Allies have occupied the Ministries of War and Navy and assumed control of the posts, telegraphs and telephones, which have been temporarily suspended. Shipping also has been suspended.

Workers' Vengeance On Baltic Soldiers

A despatch from Berlin says:—Police and workmen are now hunting down scattered Baltic soldiers still in the cty. Four officers trying to escape in an automobile were halted by the police tank at the Brandenburg Gate. The officers used their revolvers and a grenade, but were immediately overpowered and slain. Several civilians were wounded in the fight.

Weekly Market Report

Breadstuffs

Toronto, Mar. 23.—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $2.80; No. 2 Northern, $2.77.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., $1.00-⅞; No. 3 C.W., 97⅞c; extra No. 1 feed, 97⅞c; No. 1 feed, 96⅝c; No. 2 feed, 95⅝c, in store Fort William.

Manitoba barley—No.3 C.W., $1.75; No. 4 C.W., $1.35½; rejected, $1.42, in store Fort William.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.96; No. 4 yellow, $1.93, track Toronto; prompt shipment.

Ontario oats—No. 3 white, $1.00 to $1.02, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 1 winter, per car, $2.00 to $2.01; No. 2 do.,$1.98 to $2.01; No. 3 do., $1.92 to $1.93, f.o.b. shipping points, according to freights.

Ontario wheat—No. 1 spring, per car lot, $2.02 to $2.03; No. 2 do., $1.98 to $2.07; No. 3 do., $1.95 to $2.01, f.o.b. shipping points according to freights.

Peas—No. 2, $3.00.

Barley—Malting, $1.80 to $1.82, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.65 to $1.70, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 3, $1.85 to $1.88, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—Government standard, $13.25, Toronto.

Ontario flour—Government standard, $10.80 to $11.00, Montreal; $11.00 in Toronto in jute bags, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots—Delivered Montreal freight, bags included—Bran, per ton, $45; shorts, per ton, $52; good feed flour, $3.60 to $3.75.

Hay—No. 1, per ton, $28.00 to $30.00; mixed, per ton, $27.00 track, Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $16.00 to $17.00, track, Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Eggs—New laid, 59c to 60c; Butter—Creamery prints, 65c to 66c; choice dairy prints, 55c to 57c; Ordinary dairy prints,48c to 51c; Bakers, 43c to 48c;Oleomargarine (best grade) 31c to 35c; Cheese—Large, 29½c to 30c; twins, 30c to 30½c; Honey—White, 60's, 25c; 10's, 26c; 5's, 27c; Churning Cream—Toronto butter-makers are offering 68c per lb., f.o.b. shipping points, for churning cream.

Provisions—Wholesale

Smoked meats—Ribs, 30c to 31c; hams, medium, 36c to 38c; heavy, 33c to 34c; cooked hams, 50c to 53c; backs, plain, 49c to 50c; backs, boneless, 52c to 56c; breakfast bacon, 42c to 46c; cottage rolls, 33c to 34c.

Barrelled meats—Pickled pork, $46; mess pork, $45.

Green meats—Out of pickle 1c less than smoked.

Dry salted meats—Long clears, in tons, 32½c; in cases, 28c to 29c; clear bellies, 27c to 28½c; fat backs, 32c to 33c.

Lard—Tierces, 30c to 30½c; tubs, 30½c to 31c; pails, 30¾c to 31c; prints, 31½c to 32c. Compound lard, tierces, 28½c to 29c; tubs, 29c to 29½c; pails, 29¼c to 29¾c; prints, 31c to 31½c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, March 23.—Oats—Canadian Western, No. 2, $1.18½; No. 3, $1.14½ Flour—New standard grade, $13.25 to $13.55. Rolled oats—Bags, 90 lbs, $5.50 to $5.60. Bran, $45.25. Shorts, $52.25. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $29.00 to $30.00. Cheese—Finest easterns, 26½ to 27c. Butter, choicest creamery, 65 to 67c; seconds, 62 to 64c. Eggs, fresh, 62c; selected, 54c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, $3.60 to $3.65. Lard, pure, wood pails, 20 lb net, 31 to 31½c.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, Mar. 23.—Choice heavy steers, $13.50 to $14.25; good heavy steers, $12.50 to $13.25; butcher's cattle, choice, $12.50 to $13.25; do., good, $11.25 to $11.75; do., medium, $10.50 to $10.75; do., common, $8.00 to $8.50; Bulls, choice, $10.50 to $11.50; do., medium, $9.50 to $10.00; do., rough, $7.50 to $8.00; Butcher's cows, choice, $10.50 to $11.50; do., good, $9.50 to $10.00; do., medium, $8.75 to $9.25; do., common, 7.50 to $8.00; Stockers, $8.50 to $10.50; Feeders, $10.00 to $11.00; Canners and cutters, $5.25 to $6.00; Milkers, good to choice, $100.00 to $160.00; do., com. and med. $65.00 to $75.00; Springers, $90.00 to $160.00; Lambs, per cwt., $18.00 to $22.00; Sheep, $7.00 to $14.00; Hogs, fed and watered, $20.25; do., weighed off cars, $20.50; do., f.o.b., $19.25; do., do, country points, $19.00.

Montreal, Mar. 23.—Butcher steers, common, $9.50 to $11.00; common, $7.00 to $9.50; butcher cows, medium, $7.00 to $9.00; canners, $5.50; cutters, $6.00 to $7.00; butcher bulls, common, $8.00 to $9.50; good veal, $15.00 to $17.00; medium, $10.00 to $15.00; grass, $7.00 to $7.50; ewes, $12.00 to $14.00; lambs, good, $17.00 to $18.00; common, $15.00 to $17.00; off car weights, selects, $21.00; lights, $20.00 to $21.00; sows, $17.00.

CANADIAN CREDIT FOR SERBIA

$20,000,000 to Purchase Agricultural and Other Machinery.

A despatch from London says:—A credit of $20,000,000 has been requested of Canada by the Serbian Givernment. The purpose of the credit will be to finance the purchase of Canadian goods which Serbia requires for the development of its potentialities, which are said to be greater than those of any other Balkan nation.

D. M. Stewart, formerly member of the Canadian Bankers' Association and now representing Canadian interests in Serbia, has approached the Dominion authorities in London to endorse the request. In a memorandum which he has presented he states that the Serbians are progressive and industrious, but have been represented otherwise by German propagandists, that the natural resources of the country, including all the territories awarded to it in the dismemberment of the Austrian Empire, are very great, and that its Government is staple and capable. The goods it requires are chiefly mining machinery, rolling stock of all kinds, structural material and agricultural machinery, all of which Canada can supply.

It will be remembered that Serbia was one of the countries originally recommended for accommodation by Lloyd Harris, but it was refused.

Krupp Works Make Cash Registers

A despatch from Berlin says:—The huge Krupp Works, now partly closed, are employing 45,000 men. During the war 115,000 men were employed. Agricultural machinery and cash registers are being made instead of guns and shells.

CANADA'S TRADE ON INCREASE

Growth Totals $103,926,832 in Eleven Months.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—An increase of $103,926,832 in the grand total of Canadian trade for the eleven months of the fiscal year ending February 29, as compared with the same period last year, is shown by the monthly statement issued from the Customs Department. For the eleven months which ended on February 29 last the total of Canadian trade, both imports and exports, was $2,110,540,504, while for the same period in 1919 it reached a total of $2,006,621,672. The increase in imports during the eleven months' period as compared with the previous year is $77,324,941, and in exports $29,987,794.

Great increases are shown by the statement in the total value of dutiable agricultural products imported, which rose from approximately sixty-five million dollars for the last fiscal year to one hundred and ten millions for the present year. The value of textiles and textile products imported and subject to duty, of iron and steel and their products, and of animal and animal products during the eleven month period this year is greater than it was during the same period a year ago.

In the export column increases are shown in the value of domestic agricultural products sent out of the country, as well as animals and animal products. The export of wood, wood products, paper, etc., was also much greater this year than last.

GERMAN REVOLT QUICKLY SUBSIDES

Ebert Government Re-established Following Kapp's Resignation.

A despatch from Berlin says:—The Ebert Government is again in control in Berlin. Vice-Chancellor Schniffer, in whose hands the sudden retirement of Dr. Wolfgang Kapp temporarily placed the administrative power, and Gustav Noske, Minister of Defense, are engaged at bringing about order in the city and restoring activities to their normal basis.

Regular troops, loyal to the Ebert regime, are guarding the streets, and detachments of them spent the day in tearing down wire entanglements and barricades which the revolutionary soldiers had erected in profusion. In this connection there was an unfortunate accident, where in the firing of a mine to destroy a barricade at Kottsbuser, in south-eastern Berlin the explosion killed 12 persons and injured 28.

"King" of Syria Not Recognized

A despatch from London says:—The British and French Governments have notified Prince Feisal, son of the King of the Hedjaz, that they cannot recognize the validity of the decision of the Damascus Congress which proclaimed him King of Syria.

The Prince has been invited to come to Europe to state his case.

Our Bacon "Snapped Up At Once."

" 'Why don't you ship more Canadian bacon?' This is a question asked me from one end of England and Scotland to the other. It was a source of great regret that I had to reply that Canadian packers were not able to ship more bacon because more hogs were not being produced in the country." In these words, Brig. Gen. J. A. Gunn, President of Gunns Limited, Toronto, who has just returned from Great Britain, where he spent three months investigating conditions, stated the position of the Canadian bacon industry.

"Conclusive evidence of the value of Canadian bacon on the English market and a fact which the country will, I am sure, be interested in," he went on, "is that while shipments of bacon from other countries may be put into storage from time to time because of lack of demand, yet not one pound of Canadian bacon goes into storage in England. It is snapped up for immediate consumption as fast as it arrives. Besides, for every case of Canadian bacon sold, the buyer has to take a few cases of other brands. The popularity of Canadian bacon makes it possible to distribute with it grades which are not so popular to fill orders.

"I explained to business men that high prices for grain feeds and the uncertain market conditions of the past autumn had seriously curtailed hog production in Canada. But I believe the prospects for the future are so good that the preservation of our breeding stocks is a vital national concern which should engage the attention of all classes. If there is one thing which should convince the Canadian farmer that our bacon has a place by itself on the British market it is that the price being paid in Canada for hogs is far in excess of what the American farmer is getting. Previous to the war, Canadian bacon found its way into certain parts of England only. To-day, wherever you go, from Land's End to John O'Groat's, you find the consuming public familiar with Canadian bacon and asking for it. After a close study of the markets of Great Britain and Europe, I consider that if Canada is to reap the reward commercially which was opened to her by war service she must follow it up by a national peace effort. The name of 'Canada' is the finest introduction to European markets to-day. No one class in Canada must endeavor to impose upon this international trade situation any conditions which will jeopardize the position of our country."

Buy Thrift Stamps.

ROAD MAP OF GOOD ROADS IN ONTARIO.

The roads indicated will be built by the Province during the next five years at an expenditure in the neighborhood of eighteen million dollars. The Federal Government pays six million dollars; or forty per cent., the Province forty per cent., and the municipalities through which the highway passes 20 per cent. of the cost of construction. The maintenance charges will be borne by the Province and municipalities.