

stock for his large ranch from his uncle, Robert Tuplin. Other neighbours were able to secure stock at various points, and as the years went by purchased from older ranchmen, an animal or two for crossing. In this manner Silas Rayner, Harry Lewis and John Champion started their ranches. A large number of neighbours secured red and cross foxes and began breeding them for the purpose of perfecting themselves in the art of rearing the silver foxes which, in after years, they were able to obtain. By the year 1909, a dozen or more farmers in the vicinity of Alberton, P.E.I., were engaged in fox-farming. Two ranches were in operation near Summerside, P.E.I., several in Maine, two in Ontario and one in Quebec. Selling foundation stock became general in the following year and enhanced prices for breeders soon put a stop to the slaughter of animals for fur, the last sales of pelts being recorded in 1910 of animals slaughtered in 1909. Since that time only the pelts of old, accidentally killed, and diseased animals have been marketed.

Most of the early attempts to rear foxes failed because:

**Causes of
Early
Failure**

1. No good fencing material, such as the woven wire used at the present time, was available.
2. Warm, dry quarters for the young litters were not provided, the principle of having a small well-insulated nest which would be sufficiently warmed by the mother's body heat not being recognized sufficiently.
3. The monogamous nature of foxes was not recognized and being quartered in one pen in large numbers, the young were killed.
4. The price of fur was not high enough to induce breeders to risk large amounts of capital in experiments, and those who had the aptitude for the business usually possessed but little capital.

The rising prices of fur in the "nineties," the availability of woven wire fencing material, and the invention of a suitable nest and the persistence of men like Oulton, Gordon, Dalton, Beetz and Burrowman are responsible for the successful methods of ranching evolved. General details of feeding and management are still kept from the public and new ranchmen frequently pay considerable sums of money to older ranchmen for advice which, they, in turn, seek to retail to others. Other experienced ranchmen demand large salaries for their services as caretakers. A large proportion of the newer ranchmen have been less successful than the older and more experienced, for it is obvious that