

fourteen pups in the years 1910, 1911 and 1912. Seven of the pups are red and seven silver.

Most of the fox-breeders in other provinces have sold silver and dark silver stock to Prince Edward Island, where the demand has been greatest. Probably in all the dozen or more ranches in Ontario there are not three score silver foxes. The stock kept is bastard and cross foxes that produce litters with a proportion of silver pups. As their experience in selling fur has not led them to believe the present high prices for breeders in the Maritime Provinces were warranted by the pelt value of the animals, the attitude of Ontario ranchers has, in general, been to sell out at the high prices offered.

**The Best
Localities for
Ranches**

Fur experts who have given special study to the fauna of Canada say that the red and silver foxes found on the Athabaska river and in the Yukon and Alaska are often of great value. These regions should produce a weighty pelt and, if good quality were secured in foundation stock, conditions for fox ranching should be ideal—especially if venison and fish could be easily secured for food. The rapidly rising price of meats may finally necessitate the removal of the fox industry to remote points where cheaper meat can be obtained. Newfoundland and Labrador would provide sites where meat and fish could be cheaply secured and preserved for long periods by inexpensive refrigeration. The foxes of these regions are often of considerable value especially in size and strength though the fur is usually coarse. The cost of feeding a pair of foxes on Prince Edward Island, where the price of the offal and cheaper grades of meat has risen, is about \$50.00 a year, cash outlay, in addition to considerable labour in collecting the great variety of foods seemingly required. When the industry finally settles down to the production of pelts for fur, it is probable that foundation stock for new ranches will be obtained on Prince Edward Island at high prices and that the fur will be produced on ranches situated at distant and remote points.

**"Imported" or
"Foreign" Stock**

On account of a lack of sufficient data it is practically impossible to discuss intelligently the vexed question of the relative merits of "imported" and "domestic" stock. As many animals—in fact the large majority of the animals caught in the wilds—are of poor quality, they will need to be subjected to methods of rigid selection for many generations to come, if fur of good quality is to be produced. Only a few of the domestic stock are as poorly furred as the average wild stock. The chief deficiency noted in fur quality of the domestic stock was in the thin coat of fur. Among