

APPENDIX No. 5

By Mr. Wright:

Q. What will be the modus operandi of getting your report before the country?

A. A copy will be sent to every Member of Parliament and to any parties interested, without charge.

By the Chairman:

Q. How many will be printed?

A. Eight thousand—one thousand in French. It is a good sized volume, but in a year or two it will be out of date. The fox industry in Canada is progressing rapidly and it has aroused enthusiasm in breeding other fur bearers, so that the present breeding methods will soon be superseded.

Probably mention should be made of the fact that many people cannot understand why the breeders of Prince Edward Island get better prices for their foxes than other breeders. I have a table showing the average price of the wild fox as compared with the average fox bred in Prince Edward Island ranches. I found statistics of 85 ranch bred skins shipped to London. There were a good many more, but I could not get my figures verified for them. These 85 skins from Prince Edward Island ranches sold for the average price of \$1,037.17. That is what they brought in London. There were 27 skins produced on Prince Edward Island and sold by Mr. Dalton and Mr. Gordon in 1910 in London, and they brought an average price of about \$1,350 in London, which would be over \$1,200 net.

By an Hon. Member:

Q. That might not prove that they were better than any other foxes?

A. Well, I have here a comparison of the London auction prices of wild silver fox, and foxes off Prince Edward Island ranches. The average price for all skins marketed, including ranch skins, was in 1905, \$146.59; in 1906, \$166.93; in 1907, \$157.11; in 1908, \$168.91; in 1909, \$244.12; in 1910, \$414.37, and in 1911, \$290.01, giving an average of \$226.86. The average price for the Prince Edward Island skins was \$1,037.17.

By Mr. Thornton:

Q. Why are domestic skins worth more than wild?

A. Because breeders select their strain of foxes and keep them under the most favourable conditions. They are killed when in prime condition, and produced in a climate which produces the finest kind of fur. I believe the wild fox of Prince Edward Island—I am quite certain of this point—is a better animal than the wild fox of any other part of Canada. We get a better price for our red fox skins than any other part of Canada. Many of the wild silver fox marketed come from districts which produce poorer fur than Prince Edward Island. Frequently, too, wild fox skins are not prime, or are badly shot or chewed.

Q. They have been doing for the fox what the short-horn breeder has been doing for cattle?

A. Yes. I believe the principle of selection will work favourably with mink and other animals also. One breeder said he had no difficulty in getting \$13 a skin for some of his ranch bred mink. If the breeding experts on our experimental farms began the breeding and selection of fur-bearers they would soon produce a much better strain than the average wild one.

MR. THORNTON: I beg to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Jones for his very interesting and instructive talk.

Motion agreed to.

Witness retired.

Committee adjourned.