

There is no delay; the money goes to credit in the other market next day; the cost of sending gold from Montreal to New York is about 5-64 of 1 per cent. New York is the place at which the Canadian banks have to meet their international liabilities and the international liabilities of their customers; and it is for the advantage of all concerned for them to have in their possession a large reserve in money which is legal tender at face value in that market.

Imagine next that the gold held by the Dominion treasury and by the Canadian banks was all Canadian coins. Sooner or later there would arise an occasion in which the banks were obliged to ship gold to New York for the purpose of paying the international debts of their customers. They would, therefore, have to send the Canadian coins. The shipment would get to New York next day, the same as in the other case, but the coins would not pass at face value. They would be of no use to the New York banks; and the subtreaury would buy them by weight.

It would take, perhaps, three days to assay them and determine the exact weight. Then the money would be paid over—probably with deductions for short weight. The loss of three days' interest on a shipment of \$1,000,000 would be quite an item; and the deduction for short weight also might be important. The coins would be melted down and recoined into United States money.

So it is easy to see that as there is no demand for gold coins in day-to-day business in Canada, and, as they are not suitable for sending to the only market in which the banks can use gold coins, it would be an economic blunder to coin a vast amount merely to have them lie in the vaults of the Dominion treasury and of the banks. Nobody except a few officials would ever see them; and when they were exported they would be demonetized at once.

FOXES FROM COAST TO COAST

"The investor has every reason to exercise the greatest caution in his patronage of the latest channel for the absorption of his funds," was the comment of *The Monetary Times* on fox farming investments. In addition to reasons there pointed out, Mr. J. W. Jones, in his comprehensive volume on "Fur Farming in Canada," issued by the Commission of Conservation, gives other pertinent pointers, as will be seen by the following excerpts:—

"It is necessary that the general public should realize that the industry is becoming a highly speculative one, and that the individual who puts his money in companies loaded with a heavy burden of capitalization assumes a great risk."

Inexperienced management is drawn attention in the following words: "In most cases lack of success may be attributed to a inexperienced keeper."

While no serious diseases have been observed in foxes on Canadian ranches, Dr. Alexander Ross is quoted as saying: "Foxes bred in captivity are more liable to diseases than those which roam the wilds."

In regard to values of breeding stock and pelt values Mr. Jones says: "While statistics of the low prices obtained for pelts obviously could not be secured, it is quite probable that at least 30 per cent. of the silver foxes would bring a price from \$50 to \$500. At the present quotations, probably another 30 per cent. would be priced between \$500 and \$1,000, and the other 40 per cent. would bring from \$1,000 to \$4,000 each."

The ability to recognize a cheap grade of fur instantly is essential in the present state of the business, as traders represent a silver fox as such regardless of quality; and, usually only a short and distant examination of the animal is possible. Besides, the sales are made at a season when the fur is not in prime condition to pass judgment on."

Existing prices of breeding stock is shown in the following remark: "So great is the demand for breeders

that the prices of breeders have risen in two years from \$3,000 a pair to \$15,000, and at December, 1912, the best stock could not be obtained at the last named figure."

Then as to future values of breeding stock, the writer adds: "Since under present ranching conditions silver foxes increase in numbers approximately 100 per cent. each year, it seems evident that the present prices for foundation stock must decline to near the pelt value before many years. The price of the scrub stock and of specimens with the poorer grade of skins will decline first. It is likely that this inferior stock will be used for mating with red and cross foxes, which, by the year 1916, should be producing a large number of silvers, mostly of poor quality, however."

Concurrent with the usual principles that are noticed when investing funds, the important points as to expert management of animals in captivity, the need and prices of good breeding stock, ultimate values, etc., mentioned above, need to be considered when perusing the publicity matter used by the promoters of the numerous fox farms which are being founded from the Atlantic to Pacific coasts.

MANY HOMES WANTED

The housing problem is a serious one, and Toronto should do all in its power to solve the question was the summing up of one of the city's controllers when discussing the guaranteeing of eighty-five per cent. of the bonds of the Toronto Housing Company, which are preparing for an issue of \$850,000 of their bonds. Their proposition is to erect houses for two communities within the city limits. A tract of 200 acres has been acquired, and homes which may be purchased at a reasonable figure will be built on it. After the disposal of the \$850,000 issue, a larger proposition will be carried out.

At Regina another proposal is being prepared. The details of the scheme have been worked out by the city commissioners. The scheme, in brief, suggested by the city commissioners and city solicitors is as follows:—

The purchaser to make his own terms as to payments, length of time, etc.

The city to set the purchase price and stipulate that the purchaser erect a home on the property, and also occupy the house until the lot is fully paid for.

It is further suggested that the city get into touch with some contracting firm, and make an arrangement whereby the purchasers may have homes erected on the rent-as-payment plan. As the city has title to the property it will, therefore, not be hard to come to such an arrangement. The health and relief committee has already endorsed the scheme, and it will now be brought before the city council. If the council endorses it, it will then remain for the finance committee to carry out the arrangements.

Many other municipalities of the Dominion have a similar problem, which their administrators should assist in solving for the benefit of their citizens and the upbuilding of the particular cities or towns concerned.

Private enterprise and capital are being used to the fullest extent, and the existing financial stringency is not of assistance to the housebuilder, as will be seen from the remarks of *The Monetary Times'* Vancouver correspondent on another page of this issue.

The incoming and increasing populations need and are acquiring every available domicile before it is even completed.

Municipalities that are endeavoring to aid the home-seeker, whether it is proposed to assist individual home-seekers to acquire homes, or whether the city guarantees a company's bonds or aids a building contractor, or whatever proposal they may adopt, they should see it is based on a sound, legitimate and ultimately remunerative financial basis, and not likely to add to the growing expenditures of Canada's modern communities or to injure the person requiring an abode within their governance.