

Force caused inquiries to be continued over a nine-month period during which time science came to the assistance of the Police. This case arose as a result of the theft of unmarked fox pups from the MacNutt ranch at Malpeque, a district where the Police had received numerous complaints but had attained little success. In reporting his loss Mr. MacNutt advised that one of the stolen pups had a wart-like mark over his right eye and a visit to the Champion Ranch at Darnley revealed the presence of such an animal feeding in a pen with others of like size. Not being armed with a search warrant investigators withdrew without comment, but returned properly prepared and accompanied by Dr. J. C. Jack, biologist and members of the C.N.S.B.A.

A minute examination was made of the ranch. The pups previously discerned had been re-located and now appeared in pens with pups of a mature age, which placement Champion explained as being due to the fact that others had been wolfing their food. He also went on to state that our "marked pup" was one of a litter of seven suckled by a red female then in his ranch. Examination of the teats of this animal found them to be in a quiescent state with underfur still prominently displayed on the belly, which in the opinion of our experts could not possibly be the case had this female suckled young, or at least so many pups. As the result of this and other examinations conducted within the Champion Ranch the "marked pup" and others, together with this red female, were seized and ranched elsewhere together with pups remaining of the litters in the MacNutt Ranch. During the ensuing months these pups were photographed, weighed, measured and subjected to teeth examinations, and comparisons and charts prepared in much the same manner as hospital records are kept. With examinations being conducted weekly until the time of the trial, investigators collected some interesting data which convinced them that as the pups grew older the

litter characteristics distinguished themselves leaving no doubt—in the minds of the Police—as to their origin. Despite this accumulation of detail investigators still could not combat Champion's assertion that the seized red female, had raised a litter. Since this could only be refuted by killing the fox and conducting a post mortem the Department of the Attorney-General was approached with a view to making such an examination. However, the Department in calculating the risk involved decided it was far better to proceed on the scientific and circumstantial evidence at hand than to prejudice the case on the chance of a favorable report from the pathologist.

As indicated in the foregoing the Crown's case largely depended on technical and circumstantial evidence procured over a period of months with the result that the jury experienced difficulty in following the complicated evidence and gave Champion the benefit of the doubt. But with the closing of this case,

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