

gation indicate that some of the best skins ever produced are those of silvers having a red parent. There was difficulty in obtaining information on this important point, as breeders were extremely reticent in giving information concerning their experiences in cross-breeding with reds, because of a great prejudice against such breeding on Prince Edward Island. The prejudice, no doubt, results from an ignorance of Mendelian principles in segregating types.

It is interesting to note that Rev. George Clark, of St. Catharines, Ont., has in his possession a black dog fox obtained from near York Factory, Hudson bay, which, he asserts, has sired none but silver pups, when mated with any vixen. Of course, the five or six litters sired by one dog does not provide sufficient data from which to form a general conclusion. It may be that many of the six thousand or more red foxes kept in captivity will yet be crossed so as to produce a proportion of silver stock. As the red foxes were generally purchased from districts which produce very ordinary pelts, it is quite probable that, in many cases, the resulting silver will not be of good quality. The climatic conditions of Canada, however, which are very favourable to the production of good pelts, may improve exotic sub-species.

If a prepotent race of silver foxes can be developed which will produce silver young by mating to red, thus reversing the supposed dominance of the red colour, the silver colour could be more readily produced; but the red colour would appear in the second generation. No record of such behaviour, other than the case mentioned above, was obtained, so that it is probable that breeders cannot get possession of prime silver foxes by breeding them from red ones other than by the usual method of mating a silver male of polygamic tendencies with red females.

Cross Foxes as Breeders

Breeders are generally better pleased if cross foxes are produced the first generation; but, as a rule, if cross foxes are bred out, the tendency to produce an occasional red pup will never be wholly eliminated. Having cross foxes in the ancestry of silver foxes means that a proportion of red gametes are thrown and, at any time, a red fox may appear among the other silvers in a litter. Some cases of red or cross pups bred out of silver parents were recorded, but general experience, together with some evidence produced, favours the opinion that the parent foxes were animals captured in the wilds and probably had cross or patch parentage. It may be declared generally, that the silver colour is easily fixed and will practically always breed true after one or two generations of silver colour. Silver foxes can be produced of good silver colour by top-crossing cross foxes with silver for several generations and, if the