

oats, and continue both roots and oats until the grass gets a good start; then I gradually lessen the amount, and finally stop altogether before turning to pasture. I also had a small pen partitioned off and a cage for the lambs to enter, not being large enough to admit the sheep. I keep a long, low box there with mashed oats, which they are very fond of. With this and the extra feed given the mothers, I could almost see them grow daily. I plan to keep salt before the flock the year round. By applying Scotch snuff to the ewes twice during the first of the winter, they are kept free from ticks; but if any should be seen before lambing time, it will pay to give a third application. Some confine their flocks in small yards around their pens from early in the fall until turned to pasture. This is a very bad practice, as sheep need plenty of exercise, or the lambs will be born weak, and nearly all die. I have never had my lambs come until after the middle of May, as I had no suitable place for housing them, but next spring they will be dropped a month earlier. Some men can see no money in sheep. For my part, I see big profits after one has a good flock fully established. With the fine grazing lands in New Brunswick, I believe a great future awaits the intelligent shepherd, not only in this province, but throughout Canada.

Next spring I intend making another pasture, and have two, turning them in week about for a change. My first pasture was waste, and with hard-wood bushes about three feet high all over it. Now the bushes are all dead and I intend plowing it next fall, and I think it will raise a good crop. As yet, personally, I can say nothing about sheep manure as a fertilizer, but an old shepherd once told me that it was nearly as good as hay manure. As you will see, I am starting in the sheep-raising business, but I for one am satisfied with the start I have made.

York Co., N.B. BARRY J. WHITEHEAD.

How Foxes Are Reared in Prince Edward Island.

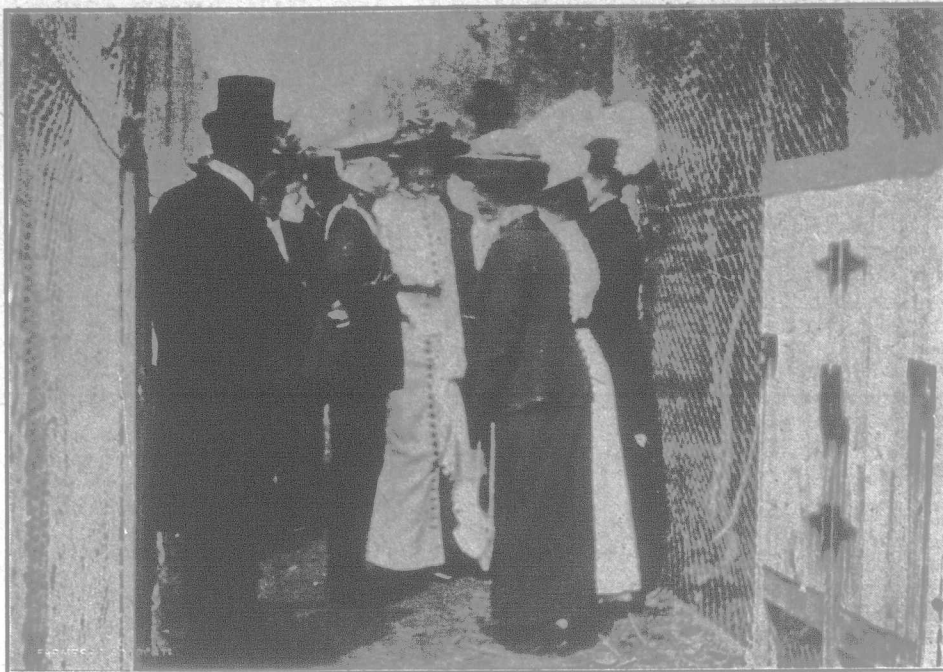
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Replying to requests for information about the breeding, feeding, and general management of foxes raised in captivity on Prince Edward Island, I have been able to gather the following particulars, which I trust is about what your inquirers in Ontario want to get. The sketch accompanying this will illustrate just what a ranch is like. It is a rough draft of "St. Patrick's Fox Ranch," which had the honor to be christened by Princess Patricia, who, with her parents, the Duke and Duchess of Cannaught, visited it last summer.

This ranch has in it twenty-eight of the best black foxes, and has capacity at present for more than double that number, and in its extent, and management, will fairly represent the fox industry here at this time. There are quite a few with a larger number of foxes, and many with less.

In constructing a ranch there is first the outer fence, which encloses several acres. For the site a bush is generally selected, which, besides providing shelter, makes conditions more natural. This bush should be close enough for good shelter, and open enough over the pens to admit plenty of sunshine. The outer, or guard fence, is constructed of boards or plank, preferably on a concrete foundation, that is 2½ or 3 feet in the ground. It is eleven feet high, fastened to cedar posts. The ranch proper is located inside of this on the same kind of a foundation, and is enclosed with heavy woven wire, eleven feet high, and securely fastened to posts three feet in the ground, about ten feet apart. The wire web is turned in all around the top for two feet so as to make it more secure. Some small ranches are covered all over the top with web wire. Inside this enclosure are the pens, each of which contains two foxes during mating time, and after the pups come, the mother and family. These pens are divided from each other by web wire or small mesh on both sides of the posts, as a double wall is necessary to keep the foxes from fighting and injuring one another. A hall way runs right through the centre, and doors open into the pens from it. Each of these pens contains a house or den.

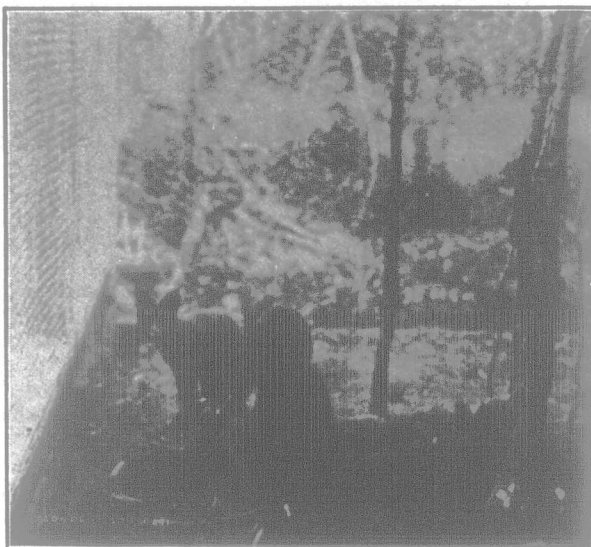
These dens are about 4 x 4½ feet with 4-foot 6-inch posts, with a pitch roof about the square. All dens are about this size, but some fox men prefer to have them roofed shed fashion, so that the fox can lie on the top of them comfortably and sun himself. The den has a door in the end about 2 feet by 20 inches. This den is double-boarded on the walls with tar paper between, and well shingled on walls and roof. The floor is also double-boarded with heavy paper between.



Entrance to St. Patrick's Ranch.

Christened by the Princess Patricia during the visit of the Royal Party to Prince Edward Island last summer.

Inside the den is divided into two compartments. The kennel is at the rear end, and the entrance to it is a circular opening just large enough for a fox to go through. This is where the young are born, and it must be very warm and close, so it is double-boarded with an air space filled with dry sawdust or ground cork.



Three Black Fox Pups.

This is believed by the owners of the ranch to be the only photo of pups ever made, as it is difficult to get a snap of a group.

The corners are bevelled off by setting a narrow board on an angle from floor to wall, to make it like a hollow log.

Some use a fox kennel, an 18-gallon keg, which is even more like a hollow log which the fox sees out in his natural element.

There is a shoot on one side, four feet long



A Fox on the Roof of His Den.

by 7½ inches square, with an elbow on it to break the draught. This is the way the foxes go in an out of the den.

All foxes are inspected for tuberculosis or other diseases. Great care is taken to keep them in health.

FEEDING.

They are fed only clean wholesome food. When milk is fed, as it generally is to the young ones, it is whole milk, and only from cows that have passed the tuberculosis tests. They are fed twice a day any kind of wholesome meat or fish. Generally fish twice a week. About one-half pound of meat or fish makes a meal for a grown fox.

Bread is fed to some extent, especially in summer. One feed of bread and one of meat would be the daily ration, but no bread raised with yeast is allowed. Raw eggs are also fed, and are excellent for growth and development. Feeding is a very skilful matter, and the food has to be varied according to the condition of the bowels. Loss is sure to result from carelessness in feeding, especially in the case of young foxes. Some ranch-men are importing and breeding a very prolific variety of rabbits for fox feed. These rabbits are kept in the outer inclosure of the ranch, and fed on vegetables. It is claimed that they can be very cheaply raised, and are excellent feed for foxes.

This time of the year the fox men are competing with the butchers in buying the poorer class of cattle to supply feed for ranches.

MATING.

It is claimed that foxes in this wild state are not addicted to polygamy, or even bigamy—so most breeders think it safer to mate them singly. Some have had good success with mating two females with one male. In this ranch nine pups raised from one dog and two females. One breeder said they were trying to make bigamists of them in order to produce more cheaply, by lessening the number of expensive males kept.

They are mated any time from September up to Christmas. At mating the male and female are put together in the pen and left so till about the 20th of March, when the male is removed and put in a separate pen 8 x 8 feet for the rest of the year. This pen is enclosed by a strong wire fence, and is proofed over, and the fox should have access to earth to burrow in. It is thought the best practice to mate the same males and females year after year, as changing them might result in no increase.

The boom is as strong as ever, and almost all of next spring's crop of pups are sold ahead. They are bartered for by paying a deposit of 10% in advance, and the balance when they are ready for delivering.

Quite a number of black foxes are being imported from Newfoundland, and quite a number of blue foxes have already been brought here from Alaska. It looks at present as if this island in the near future would develop into a big fur farm. But dame fashion is fickle, and as soon as the common people can buy and wear black fox fur, then wealthy aristocrats will have to adopt something else, which the tyranny of fashion will adopt in its place. But this day is believed to be somewhat distant.

W. SIMPSON.