

Wild Life in Canada

By W. MacMillan

RED OR YELLOW FOX *Vulpes fulvus* Renard Rouge

OF THE many types of Foxes scattered through the continent of North America the Red or Yellow Fox is perhaps the most spectacular as well as the most common. The bright yellow fur can be sighted many yards away. During the cold of Winter the pelt brightens



Red or Yellow Fox—A big one of his kind

to a living blaze of color that stands out with startling distinctiveness against the white background of snow. But despite this seeming handicap that Nature has imposed upon him he seems to be well able to take care of himself and according to all accounts is in no great danger of becoming extinct.

The Red Fox is verily a friendly soul and seems to go out of his way sometimes in order to make his home close to civilization. In the open, wind-swept places of his domain he develops a heavy body but gets somewhat paler in color while on the contrary his brother of the wooded sections is smaller but of a more brilliant hue and the fur is softer and silkier in texture.

Hare and Partridge expect to be eaten on sight by this, their swiftest enemy, and they well know that his cunning is hard to circumvent. Should a Farmer have the misfortune to have a Fox anywhere near his farm it isn't long before wise Reynard gets in his cunning work and the way he avoids traps and snares, set for him, earns him the unstinted praise of all Trappers who pit their skill against his wits.

Attempts have been made to breed the Red Fox and while the breeding has of course been quite successful it has been found that the prodigious appetite of the animal is too great to allow for much profit on the pelt.

The young of the Red Fox average from two to five in a litter and some females have been known to give birth to as many as ten kittens at one time. Being poor diggers the females nose around for some ready-made home in a tree stump or some loose rocks. In Northern Quebec, Indians have been known to dig up litters of young Red Foxes, fill a bag with them and peddle them to City people for a dollar a piece.

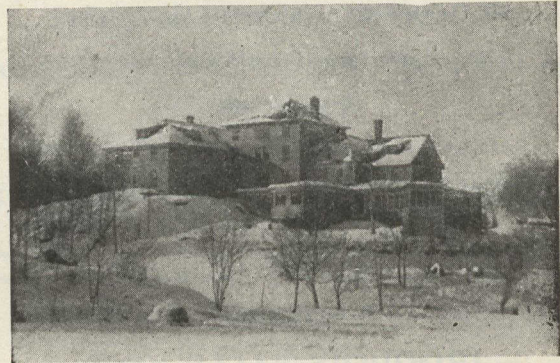
A large male Red measures about twenty-five inches in length and has a heavy brush about twelve to eighteen inches long. The females run smaller. A pelt is worth from Ten to Thirty-five Dollars.

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