

THE SILVER FOX INDUSTRY

SILVER Fox breeding was first attempted on Prince Edward Island about the year 1889 or 1890, when a pair of foxes were obtained by Benjamin Haywood of Tignish, P. E. Island from James Lamb of Kildare Capes. These foxes were housed in a shed attached to his carriage house, and though the animals bred, they were so disturbed by curious visitors that they never raised any pups in captivity.

From this time to 1905, may be said to have been the real hard, stormy, pioneer days in fox ranching. During this period the pioneers, whose names are household words wherever the fox business is known, struggled with the various problems of raising these wild and sensitive animals in captivity.

The big six, as they are still known, were:—Charles Dalton and R. T. Oulton; J. S. Gordon and Robert Tuplin; and, B. I. and Silas Rayner. These pioneers worked together in groups as their names are coupled, and through them this conservative movement, today world wide in its recognition and scope, was established on Prince Edward Island, now known as the home of the fox breeding industry.

It is impossible, within the confines of this booklet, to give a complete and accurate history of the development of the business. It is sufficient to say that the attention of outsiders was first drawn to fox breeding, by the enormous prices secured for pelts at the London fur sales. And it is the prices received for fine silver fox skins in the great market of the world today, that determine the sound, profitable basis of the enterprise. A pair of high-class breeding foxes, producing four to seven pups a year, net their owners from \$1000.00 to \$3000.00 per annum from the fur of their off-spring; and, when the pups are sold for breeding purposes, profits are considerably above amounts named.

Like any other live stock industry, the raising of foxes is subject to losses and discouragements; and we have no desire or intention to persuade any man to consider any fox breeding enterprise with the idea that everything is rosy and that he will not meet with difficulties and losses that he must strive to overcome. We do claim, however, with-