

Mr. PARENT: They have to be foxy.

Mr. McMASTER: It strikes me that we have paid out a good deal of public money in this direction, and far too much has gone in the way of expenses to those who were not doing the real work, but who were more or less supervising. The Minister of Immigration and Colonization has a very wise look on his face and perhaps he could give us some information in regard to the subject of fox breeding. I throw out this suggestion because there is a sapient expression on his face.

Mr. CALDER: I have no knowledge of the subject.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: First, with reference to over-head expenses. The one purpose of the Research Council was to interest scientific bodies and to line them up as far as possible in accordant action. In order to do that they must visit the different parts of the Dominion and consult with those men and form organizations. To have said to Dr. Macallum, "We will pay you \$10,000 as director, and then make you stay in Ottawa so as to obviate travelling expenses", would not have been a proper manner in which to conduct the enterprise. Dr. Macallum did travel over every part of the Dominion. He called on scientific and university men, had conversations and conferences with them, and formed them into groups which affiliated themselves in work with the Advisory Council, under their direction. That was the first really excellent step that was taken. It had to be taken if you were going to collect information, focus scientific research work in Canada, and carry it on under proper supervision and in a regular manner. With reference to fox breeding, this is an industry that has had its ups and downs. On the whole it has shown possibilities of very large returns, not only from foxes, but from other wild animals that might be cultivated. The difficulties in fox culture arise, so far as I understand, chiefly in regard to habitat, feeding, and procreation of foxes. Foxes are, of course, a foxy lot, and many a breeder, after he has spent large sums of money, and has obtained a litter, suddenly finds, after leaving them in good condition one day, that the next day they have in some way or other disappeared. Very frequently they are destroyed by the mother herself. Now why is that? The mother fox destroys her young through fright. Some clumsy method in dealing with these animals may give rise to fright on the part of the mother and she probably thinks that

the best way of standing between them and their enemies is by destroying them. An endeavour is made to provide proper food and, generally, such treatment as will make the habitat as natural as possible and on the whole make for natural conditions. This research work was carried on in the actual farming of foxes for a certain period. Strict scientific observation was made of them on which conclusions might be based as to the best methods of feeding, breeding and looking after them. When that information is ascertained, and has behind it scientific authority, as well as experience, it will prove very valuable to the fox breeding industry as a whole.

Mr. McMASTER: What is Dr. Andrew Hunter, who is devoting his attention to fox breeding? Is he a veterinary doctor?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: So far as this research goes, I suppose you would call him a fox doctor.

Mr. McMASTER: Well, he is doctoring foxes and he gets an advance for expenses of \$5,000.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: That is for carrying on experiments.

Mr. McMASTER: Where has he carried on these experiments?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: In Prince Edward Island in the vicinity of Ottawa.

Mr. McMASTER: Well, I submit that it is not wise to appoint a man who is a veterinary doctor, or a homeopath, or a dentist, who lives in Toronto, to carry on investigations of this nature in Prince Edward Island. Why should a man in Toronto be engaged to carry on research work in Prince Edward Island at a total expenditure last year of over \$5,000?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I am not a fox doctor, nor am I an authority on the breeding of animals. My hon. friend, however, has a high opinion of McGill University, and I know he has an equally high opinion of Dr. Ruttan who was on the Advisory Council, which thought it necessary, after a thorough consideration of the matter, to devote a certain amount of money to this purpose. He was one of the Advisory Council who made that proposal. I cannot give my hon. friend the information which I know he could obtain from Dr. Ruttan, although I could get it for him and give him a memorandum on the subject. I know it would be both interesting and