

the wild stock the poor colour and the coarseness of fur are notable. There are exceptional individuals of excellent quality among the wild foxes, but none yet examined is the equal of the selected domestic animals in silkiness and sheen of coat. Those who favour the wild class of stock contend that wild foxes are stronger and will produce as good fur as domestic foxes after they have been penned up and fed properly. They argue that the lower average for pelts of wild animals is caused by the fact that they are killed out of season; that they are shot, are poorly skinned and carelessly handled before marketing and are not especially prepared for market like the domestic animals; and that the average price is thus lowered several hundred dollars a skin. The exponents of the domestic stock say that selection practised for eight or ten generations—when at least 50 per cent of the animals have been culled out and slaughtered—has produced a type of animal that will bring upwards of one thousand dollars each or five times as much as the wild animal.

There is much to be said on both sides. In our opinion, however, the prime killing of the wild stock after careful fattening would probably increase the value of the pelts 100 per cent but they would still be less than half as valuable as the best grade of selected Island stock. Excellent foundation stock, improved through several generations by selection and feeding, has done its work in a fashion similar to the development of our breeds of domestic stock.

The owners of selected stock will do well, however, to bear in mind that their animals can be still further improved and that it may require a Labrador, Alaskan, Newfoundland or Hudson Bay fox to grade up their stock in some particular quality. It is not probable, however, that improvement of stock can be effected by importations from Kansas, New Jersey and other southern states. To protect the character and reputation of their established strain of stock, all true fox breeders should discourage the practice of importing southern foxes for speculative purposes merely.

The Capture of Live Fur-bearers

When the great success of the Prince Edward Island fox ranchmen was disclosed several years ago, a general search was made for wild silver fox by trappers and others acquainted with the situation. Until 1912, the business was not generally known. Up to that year, probably a hundred or more foxes had been imported and at least half the Island stock had "imported blood" in them. In the year 1913, hunting for wild silver foxes became a veritable craze. The digging out of dens and nests proceeded throughout summer, and in November, when the trapping season opened, the search was prosecuted with