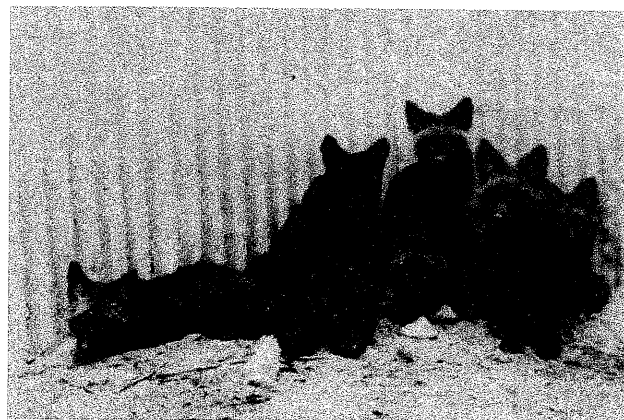


Warehouse stacked with valuable furs of all kinds in Northern Canada



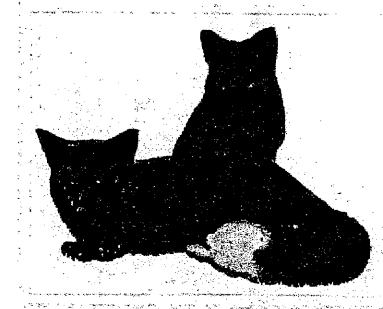
A few fine specimens of Silver Black Fox Pelts



ROTHESAY LIVING MUSEUM
Online Edition
<http://rlm.nbed.nb.ca>

A Community Partnership between the
Town of Rothesay & Rothesay High School

Introducing
our recent addition to the
Rothesay Living Museum Archives:



Fox Farm Road:
A Scrapbook History of the
Fox Farming Industry in
Renforth

with assistance from:
Terry Stilwell
New Brunswick Department of Education
N.B. School District 6

Dr. M.E. Fox of New London, Conn. holding tame fox
in our Ranch at Renforth, N.B.



This document was digitized thanks to the co-operation of Terry Stilwell, to whom it was given by Janet McNichol. Much remains unknown about how the booklet was assembled, by whom, and for what reason. Dated material spans a period from 1910 to 1915. Due to absence of material concerning the later years of foxfarming and the decline of the industry, it seems very unlikely that the book was assembled any later than the 1920's. The lack of documented sources implies the author's intent was not scholarly. However, it now has great value in telling a tale of early Renforth in the days of fortunes in furs, lumber and steamboats, in our once quiet and rural community.

Stephen Baird
RLM

Below: Head keeper Mr. Allaby holding a tame fox



A party of Gentlemen from New London and Hartford, Conn., on a holiday trip to Saint John, N.B. summer of 1914. These gentlemen are heavy investors in Fox stock.

The Silver Black Fox Industry

The story of the Silver Black Fox Industry reads like a chapter from the Arabian Nights. It is a short story, yet a dramatic one. Based on fact it is as thrilling as a romance, in fact it is romance realized: for, if to plant in poverty, and suddenly to reap in affluence is dramatic, then the story of its rise to one of the leading industries as it is romantic.

Reports say that some twenty-five years ago several Silver Black Foxes were bred in captivity. The furs of these were offered at the London Market, and for value outdistanced all the Fox Furs in the world. One man sold a pelt for \$2,658; a few years later another pelt was sold for \$2,400 which was resold by the buyer for more than \$3,800.

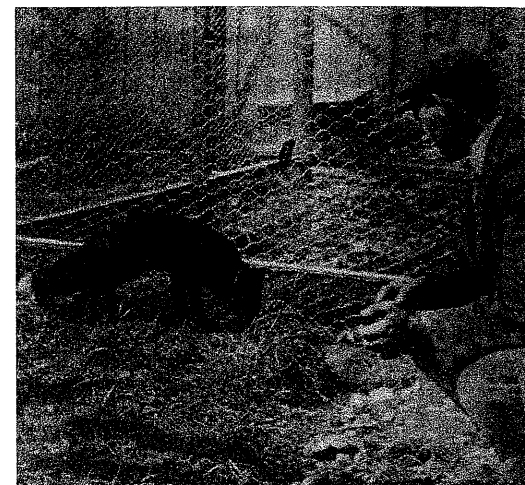
Fur prices such as these started the request for Breeders, the first of which was sold in 1909. The demand grew, and in 1911 not a fox was killed for the pelt.

It was a natural development of the business in order to meet its requirements more rationally and practically that many privately owned ranches should be converted into Stock Companies. In 1912 a few such Companies were organized in order to raise these animals scientifically and according to the most approved methods. By the end of 1913 the number had more than quadrupled. The Province of New Brunswick alone has over forty Companies and the number is constantly increasing.

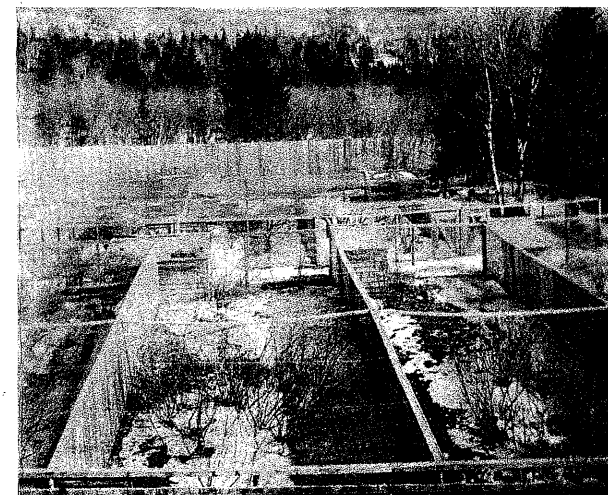
excerpt from the scrapbook at <http://rlm.nbed.nb.ca>



Large Fox Ranch in Renforth, 120 pens, Cost \$8,0



A tame fox on the ranch in Renforth



Interior view of Imperial Ranch at Renforth, N.]