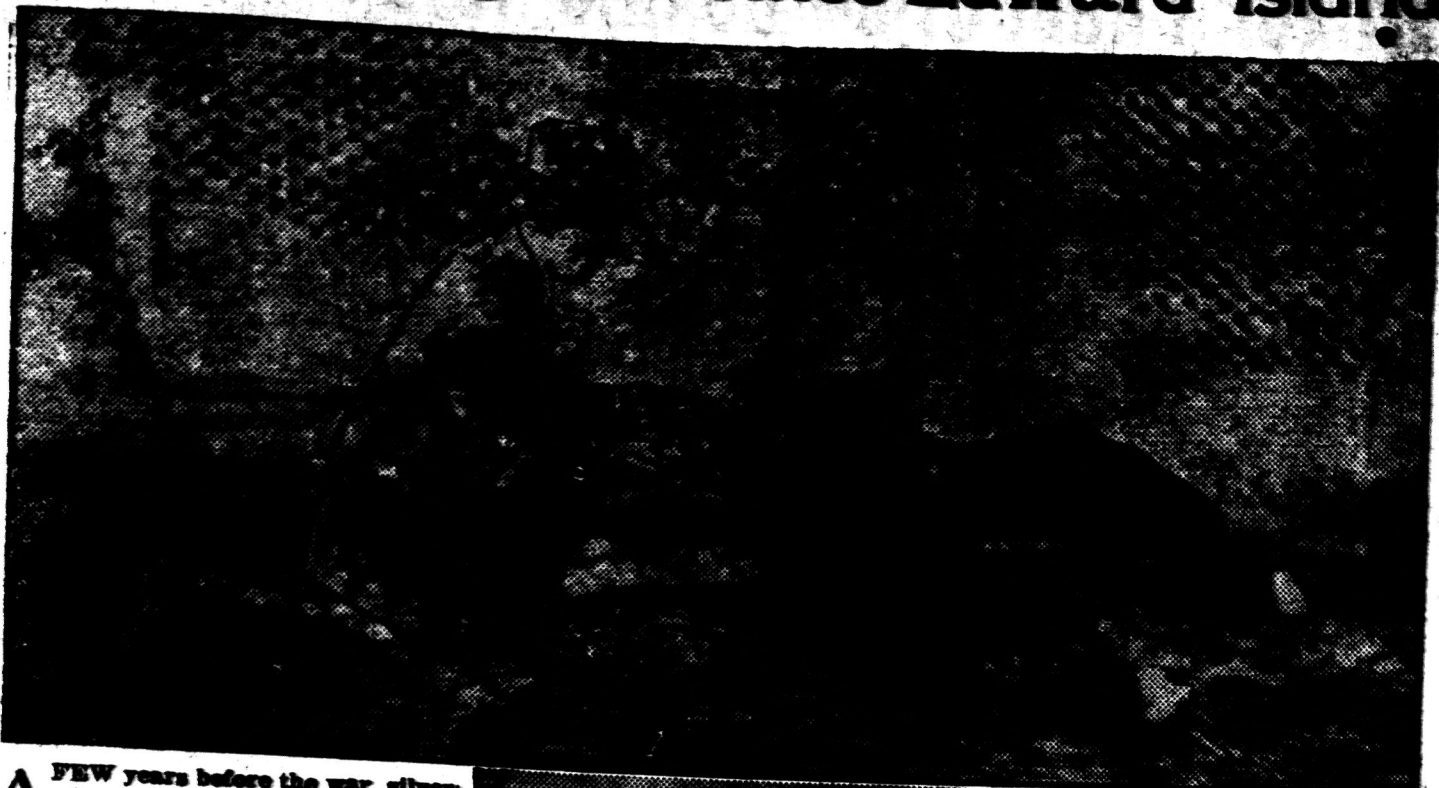


## Fox Farming on Prince Edward Island



A FEW years before the war, silver fox farming suddenly sprang into the list of Canadian industries, and from Atlantic to Pacific travellers in the observation cars of the C. P. R. used to have pointed out to them fences where thousands of dollars worth of animals were said to be penned up. Companies were formed to exploit the furs, and the speculation was about as great as that in the Calgary oilfields. Since the outbreak of war less has been heard of this boom, and yet in certain districts it still seems to flourish. Fox furs are still in demand and are worth a great deal of money.

At the beginning of the pelting season in 1917 the number of foxes on the ranches of Prince Edward Island was approximately 10,000. From December 1st, 1917, to January 31st, 1918, 2,500 foxes were killed and their skins sold. In 1918 there was a pup production of 2,500, thus making the number of foxes at the opening of the last pelting season 11,000. Allowing for a kill of 2,500 during the past season and the shipment of a small number abroad the season of 1919 will open for ranch breeding with about 7,000 selected foxes as a breeding stock.

Good silver fox furs are of great value. They are worn by real queens and movie queens. When the daughter of the Duke of Devonshire was married not long ago a silver fox fur was one of the most prized gifts she received.

One of the best known fox ranches has a central passage through which is carried the feed to be distributed on either side and which is also used for carrying away the refuse from the pens. A guard fence nine feet high of boards with wire overhung and wire extending into ground encloses the ranch proper. This gives privacy, protection and prevents the foxes escaping should they get out from the central pens. Outside of the guard fence is a twenty feet watch tower used by the keeper to keep accurate records during mating season and general supervision throughout the year without unnecessarily disturbing the foxes. Each pen is of a large enough size to give the animal plenty of exercise and passages are arranged so that the keeper can give any pair the full use of two large pens. The pens are divided by double partitions of wire mesh, and the animals about four feet long, two feet wide and eighteen inches high with bladed



(1) Coaxing some pups with tempting morsels.  
(2) Black beauties watching the photographer. This pair in the last three years have produced fifteen beautiful pups and are big earners.  
(3) A noble sire. This animal is a direct descendant of a fox whose pelt brought the world's record price, \$2,700.00.

tion were provided. The wire netting runs down into the ground about three or four feet or to the hard earth, which is known as hard-pan. The watch tower is ten feet high and has overhangs of netting extending two feet on either side of perpendicular to prevent the foxes from getting out or other foxes getting in. The latest model fox house is a two-house, one being the den and the other the living room with a chute connecting and another chute for entrance from outside to the living room. These houses are each about four feet long, two feet wide and eighteen inches high with bladed

## How Christian De Wet Lost Admiration by Acts That Displayed Treachery

THE recent refusal of the Cape Town Government to issue passports to Gen. Christian De Wet and Pieter Grobler, a grandson of President Kruger, who desired to proceed to Paris in order to submit proposals for an independent South Africa to the Peace Conference, recalls the futile effort of these irreconcilables and their confederates, Beyers, Maritz, and Kemp, to break up the Union and establish a republic in the early months of the great war. De Wet, captured in the field and tried for treason, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment, but, with Pieter Grobler, upon whom a sentence of two years was imposed, was soon pardoned for political reasons. It was no time to enforce the rigors of the law against a famous veteran who was still a hero in Boer households, or to make an example of a descendant of Paul Kruger.

No doubt the influence of Gen. Botha and Jan Smuts, who had accepted British rule in the belief that it would be for the welfare of South Africa, was exerted in favor of the old comrade in arms. The truth, of course, was that martyrdom for De Wet would have fomented the rebellious spirit still latent in the Transvaal and Orange Free State. The Transvaal, with a population of nearly 2,000,000, is the richest province of the Union, and it was wise to try



CHRISTIAN DE WET.

conciliation with those Boers whose loyalty was still under suspicion. They were chiefly the older men who had fought in the war of 1899-1902.

A good many of the veterans were staunch supporters of Botha and Smuts, but there was an element that gave sullen allegiance to the Empire. It is active enough at the present time to agitate for independence and ask to be represented at Paris. The influence of the two veterans who have been honored by the British Government with high place and who have driven the Germans from Africa is so strong, however, that "self-determination" would doubtless show the Boer people of the Union to be satisfied with the British administration, which is liberal, progressive, and farseeing. The younger Boers understand its advantages, and are proud to be represented by such soldier-statesmen as Louis Botha and Jan Smuts.

Looking back, the rising which brought out De Wet from his retirement is seen to have been an irrational and dishonest enterprise doomed to failure. Maritz, who beguiled De Wet to his undoing, was an unscrupulous and graceless figure. The propaganda of the revolt was a tissue of lies to delude the Boer farmers who were out of touch with true conditions at Cape Town. At first they were allured by the promise that it should be a bloodless revolution. Then they were told that Botha had inspired and would lead the movement. Soon after Christian Beyers joined it he was reported to be bombarding Pretoria with German artillery. Maritz was said to be on the Vaal with 30,000 men and 100 guns. But when Gen. Botha took the field the rebellion crumbled like a fungus.

De Wet had had his choice to serve with the Imperial forces in the great war. He might have gone to France, so it was said, with a corps of British and Dutch Afrikaner scouts, but he elected to attack the Government of the Union from ambush. There is no doubt that he could have made a command under Botha or Smuts in South Africa. For his fame it would have been better if the ablest guerrilla leader that the world has probably ever known had at least remained in retirement during the struggle. He had been a most romantic figure and was greatly admired by a generous enemy. After the Boer war he was treated with consideration by the victors, and accepted office from them. In the rising of October, 1914, he lost his prestige as a soldier, and in a cause that had little to recommend it from any point of view he cut rather a pitiful figure.

Heat and Sound. When the temperature is 23 degrees, sound travels 1,090 feet a second and one additional foot a second for each additional degree of temperature. Electricity over a wire where there is no resistance travels 182,924 miles a second.

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In the Millinery Show Rooms  
In the Suit and Coat Section  
In the Dress Goods and Silk Dept.  
In the Wash Goods Dept.  
In the Men and Boys Store  
In the Furniture and Home Furnishing Store

Come and See the New Spring time things Gathered in this Big, Bright Store

FALLS DEPARTMENT STORE  
SIMCOE, ONT.

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And the weather seems too mild for winter clothes. It's a good time to pay a visit to Falls' Men's store and leave your measure for a man's tailored to order suit. Hundreds of patterns to select from. \$25.00 to \$50.00.

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What a difference good and pleasing China makes "Three times a day."—Scores of Dinner Sets are marked at special prices in Falls Downstairs store. Mostly French and English Dinner Sets—a few Japanese, not many. DINNER SETS \$18 to \$125. You will also find extra good values in Table Tumblers, Toilet Sets, Tea Pots, Out Glass, Etc. Visit the REAL CHINA DEPARTMENT in Falls Downstairs store.

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## Read the Figures

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