

# THERE IS MONEY IN FOX FARMING

### Industry Is Rapidly Gaining Favor in Several of Northern States of Country.

## MANY ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY

#### Best Location for Farm Is Where Winters Are Cold and Opportunity Offered to Develop Fur—Big Price for Pelts.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Fox farming is fast gaining favor in the United States. The industry, barely known a decade ago, is fairly common in some states of the northern tier, is represented in all states in this tier and in that next to it, and is growing rapidly. There is money in it for the raiser who starts modestly, learns the business, and then expands his holdings. There are losses in store for the type who starts with a big ranch, no knowledge of the business, and only a desire for quick profits. At the present time the industry is undergoing a process of stabilization. Most fox farmers raise animals for breeding purposes, and comparatively few have adjusted the business to a pelt basis. All told, there are between 10,000 and 15,000 silver foxes being grown in captivity on American fox farms at this time.

#### Many Animals in Canada.

Such are some of the conclusions of a representative of the biological survey, United States Department of Agriculture, who has just returned to Washington after an extensive investigation of American fox farms and



A Silver Fox.

the methods of their operation. In Canada, where the industry originated, and especially on Prince Edward island, where there are approximately 15,000 foxes in captivity, fox farming is conducted on a much more extensive scale than in the United States. Its promise of good financial returns to those willing to master its problems, give indication that within a comparatively short time in this country it will rival in proportions the industry in Canada.

The best location for a fox farm is where the winters are cold and the fox may have opportunity to develop fur in keeping with the needs of the climate. The industry is thus confined by climatic conditions to the northern states. There the raising of foxes for breeding and for the fur markets flourishes. Most of the foxes raised in captivity are on farms, or "ranches," with pens for from 25 to 50 pairs, although in occasional instances the ranches are much larger, containing pens for as many as 150 pairs.

The foxes generally breed in January and February and the young are born within 52 days. A pair of foxes raises one family a year, the number of young varying from one to ten, though rarely exceeding five or six. Most of the fox raiser's troubles come when the young are a few weeks old and are peculiarly susceptible to attacks from worms. Great care is necessary to carry the young foxes through this period.

#### Most Foxes Sold for Breeding.

It is not advisable to kill a fox for the pelt before 18 months of age for at that time its fur is more valuable than at a younger age. Comparatively few of the foxes raised on American ranches are sold at the present time, however, for their pelts. Most of the ranchmen obtain higher values than the worth of the pelt by selling the live animals for breeding purposes. A good pelt may fetch as much as \$600, though the average is much lower, approximating \$250 to \$350. The furs are comparatively little known because of their rarity. Silver foxes vary from those in which the color is entirely silver to those in which it is entirely black except for some white-banded hairs on the back and rump. In the black fox the white is absent from all parts except the tip of the tail, which is generally white in all phases of the animal.

## PROVIDE DUCKS WITH WATER

#### Where Supply Is Lacking Fowls Gum Up About Eyes, Become Listless and Die.

A duck must have water about its head and eyes daily or it will not thrive. However, if a tank of sufficient depth is provided for the ducks to sink their heads in the water clear out of sight when they drink, then they can do without a pond or stream of running water. When they have no water to get all, ducks often gum up about the eyes, become listless, sit about, don't eat and soon die.

## SIDELIGHT ON SYRIAN LIFE

#### Writer Gives an Insight Into His Life as a Small Boy in That Little Known Country.

The roads were open. Travelers came into our village. Scarcely a night was the guest house in our courtyard unoccupied. I liked to sit with my father and his guests in this room, built after European style with four large windows over which in winter oiled paper was passed to keep the cold out. The walls of the guest room were white and on them were hung the choicest rugs brought back from Kurdistan by my Grandfather Mirza.

There were chairs in this room. I was very proud that we should own chairs, but I found them most uncomfortable to sit on. After a few moments my legs began to ache and I slipped down on the cushions. In the alcove of the guest chamber were some old manuscripts bound in course leather. They were holy books with illuminated margins. Among them was a Bible in Syriac. I carefully refrained from touching it. It was too holy. I might perhaps be struck dead for my temerity.

Among the travelers that came along the road was Hady, the singer. He was the ugliest man that I had ever seen, sore-eyed, pock-marked and dirty. But he was very wise. His ivory handled dagger in its silver sheath was so long that it reached from his chest to his hips. My playmates and I would have laughed and jeered at him, perhaps, if he had not carried this dagger.—Youel B. Mirza in Asia Magazine.

## BARGAIN AT \$30 A MONTH

#### Chinese Boy With "Exceptional Knowledge of English" Should Have Been Snapped Up Quickly.

The following application for employment was received by a Shanghai hong from a student in the Shanghai college:

"Nothing is of less importance than the age of a person; nevertheless, it is proper to begin that I am in my twenty-first year. Having a firm ambition to do some service in the business world, I grasp this opportunity to insert myself into the sphere. It is true that many are now wandering idly in the market awaiting employment. But it is true to the same extent that many of these, if not all, are good for nothing. To take notice upon them, or to put some duty upon them is to give gun powder to children as a plaything. The danger can be imagined.

"I am now going to give some account of my personal abilities. It is not too much to say that my knowledge of English can hardly be represented to the full color by such a little adjective as 'thorough.' It is exceptionally excellent, to be outspoken. As to the art of typewriting, my hands go on as smoothly as to skate on an icy river. With such intellectual weapons any hard duties can be as easily conquered as an egg shell by a wave. The salary I look for would be \$30 a month.

"Awaiting your answer earnestly, I am, Sir, \_\_\_\_\_."—North China Gazette.

#### Robin Is Inventor.

The robin lives in trees and partly on the ground, so that it sometimes hops, like birds that live in trees, and sometimes walks or runs, like birds that live on the ground.

The robin is a plucky little fellow. He will stand up for himself, and refuses to let other birds put upon him. Generally he lives alone—sometimes with a mate, but never do you find robins in flocks.

This little bird can claim to be the inventor of pottery.

Look at a robin's nest and you will see that it is a clay pot, set into a pile of straw. When a robin has finished with a nest, take it and put it on the fire, having first thoroughly dried it. Leave it on the fire until all the straws have been burnt, and if it has not broken, you will find that you have a perfectly good earthen pot.—Pearson's Weekly.

#### Peculiar Manx Cats.

The origin of Manx cats is now attributed to the arrival of these cats on the Isle of Man from ships belonging to the Spanish armada that were wrecked there. They were probably brought from Japan or eastern Asia. They are a distinct species with short forelegs, and elevated hindquarters, and differ from other cats somewhat in call, ways, and character. They vary in color. People who have owned them for long periods say they are not good mousers or hunters. In character they are rather similar to a dog, being highly companionable and having some of the qualities of a guardian, but they are not considered hunters in any sense of the word.

#### Sense of Obligation.

"What a wonderful thing it would be if Shakespeare were alive today?" "I wish he were," said Mr. Stormington Barnes, earnestly. "I should like to meet him. I'm sure he would be very grateful to me for the manner in which I have interpreted his poetry."

#### Her Present Occupation.

"You say that your wife went to college before you married her?" "Yes, she did." "And she thought of taking up law, you said?" "Yes; but now she's satisfied to lay it down."

## TESTING AIR IN OLD MINE

#### Of All Methods, the Lowering of a Miner's Safety Lamp Is Acknowledged to Be Safest.

Raising and lowering a bucket several times, to bring into a long-disused mine fresh air from the surface, is common practice. Methane may be expected in abandoned shafts or pits driven in coal measures or carbonaceous slates, or where a heavily timbered shaft is partly filled with water. If methane is suspected, it is best to lower nothing but a miner's safety lamp. If the light is not extinguished, the descent can be considered reasonably safe. When no safety lamp is available, and it is necessary to test with an open light, care should be taken to immediately withdraw all persons in close proximity to the shaft or pit as there may be an explosion.

Generally, there is no physiological warning of oxygen deficiency in the air. The first decided feeling is one of extreme weakness accompanied by dizziness, better described as partial paralysis, and the victim collapses practically without warning. To guard against this danger, a man should not enter old workings without having a rope tied around his body and at least two men on the top. The rope should be kept taut. Then if a distress signal is given, the explorer will not only be prevented from falling, but can be quickly pulled to fresh air and his life saved.

## RELICS OF AGES LONG PAST

#### England Has Three of the Most Remarkable That the Whole World Has to Offer.

A loaf of bread more than 600 years old, it is said, is to be found at Ambaston, in Derbyshire, England. It was included in a grant of land from the crown in the reign of King John, and has remained in the Soar family ever since.

Almost as great a curiosity as this is a house 1,100 years of age, and yet fit for habitation. This old dwelling, the oldest inhabited house in England, was built in the time of King Offa of Mercia. It is octagonal in shape, the walls of its lower story being of great thickness. The upper part is of oak. At one time the house was fortified and known by the name of St. German's Gate. It stands close to the River Ver, and only a few yards from St. Albans abbey.

A marriage proposal 3,400 years of age is in existence in the British museum. It is the oldest marriage proposal of which there is any definite record. It consists of about ninety-eight lines of very fine cuneiform writing, and is on a small clay tablet made of Nile mud. It is a marriage proposal of a Pharaoh for the hand of the daughter of the king of Babylon. It was written about the year 1530 B. C.

#### Making the Hammer Safer.

The hammer is a useful tool, but its use is not quite free from danger to the user or from injury to materials. The flat, highly polished surface is likely to glance off the nail unless the blow is squarely delivered; and when the nail is of cast metal, its head often flies off and inflicts quite severe injuries.

One firm had innumerable accidents from this cause, and some of the men were permanently injured. Thereupon, the managers tried hammer heads with scored faces as an experiment, and owing to the success of the experiment, the polished faced hammer has been abolished in that firm's factory, except for special classes of work.

When the hammer's face is scored or roughened it is very much less likely to glance off the nail head. The fact that this type of hammer has proved so conspicuously successful and safe, has encouraged many manufacturers to place it on the market.

#### The Beaver.

A family that figures prominently in the annals of New York owes the origin of its great wealth to a humble but industrious rodent, the beaver. The same rodent has conferred its name upon a downtown street in that city. There survives the tradition of a Beaver brook that once meandered its picturesque way through what is now the downtown section.

But the beaver himself is a vanished species in this country. The beavers that inhabit the little ponds in the zoological gardens are immigrants from Canada.

In these restricted areas, surrounded by high wire fences, these citizens by adoption are as busy as were their ancestors who once ranged along the streams that watered the woods.—Chicago Journal.

#### Could Drink a Big Fog.

It takes a big block of fog to make one good swallow of water, says Dr. W. J. Humphreys of the United States weather bureau at Washington. The densest fog off Newfoundland banks contains some twenty thousand droplets in a cubic inch. Dr. Wells and Dr. Thurus of the bureau of standards found. To get one gulp of water enough fog to fill a space 3 feet by 6 feet by 100 feet long would have to be condensed. In a fog of that size there are 60 trillion particles of water or three times as many particles as the number of dollars spent by the United States during the world war. "It would take about a half hour to count an inch of fog particles," says Dr. Humphreys. "Placed side by side, 2,500 to 3,000 droplets would be needed to fill that length."

# SIFTS CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT

### National Industrial Conference Report Says Problem Warrants Deep Study.

## MANY WHO WILL NOT WORK

#### Factors Entering Into Relations Between Employers and Workers Emphasized—Average Worker Loses 42 Days a Year.

New York.—Unemployment is a continuous industrial problem, sufficient in importance to warrant concerted effort by economists and business men to remove certain of its causes, is the stand taken by the national industrial conference board, in a report on "The Unemployment Problem." The report gives a comprehensive survey of the extent of unemployment during normal periods and during the present business depression, discusses the causes and analyzes remedies suggested.

The object of this study is to set forth fundamental principles to be taken into account in considering the problem, derived from analysis of data and experience, and from basic economic considerations, in order to provide a guide by which employers or organizations may approach their unemployment problems more intelligently.

"The report," says a statement from the board, "makes a careful distinction between idleness and unemployment, which refer to very different causes. Idleness proceeds from three principal sources: Unwillingness to work on the part of those who are capable of performing work; disability, physical or mental, of otherwise willing workers, and lastly, unemployment of those who are capable and willing to work, but cannot find work because of industrial maladjustments within the plant or industry, or because of general economic conditions at home or abroad.

#### Causes of Unemployment.

The statement then takes up the causes of unemployment. They fall into two classes, described in the report as follows:

1. Internal causes arising from conditions within individual manufacturing plants. These embrace:

(a) Personal factors such as strikes and lockouts, and disability; (b) impersonal factors relating either to failures of management, resulting in faulty factory organization, to high production costs within the control of management, ineffective sales methods, lack of materials and equipment, high labor turnover, or to failure of employees because of inefficiency, or to the displacement of hand labor by machinery.

In the aggregate these causes produce a more or less continuous percentage of unemployment from month to month and from year to year.

2. External causes due to influences operating outside of the plant. These are:

(a) Of economic origin, resulting from seasonal variations, business depressions, wasteful systems of commodity distribution, deficient labor-placement facilities; (b) of political origin, due to immigration and tariff policies and international relationships.

"It is estimated," the statement says, "that in 1920 the total number of persons engaged in gainful occupations in the United States was about 41,000,000. Most of the available employment statistics pertain to wage-earners in the groups of manufacturing and mechanical industries, which numbered, in 1920, about 12,800,000. During normal times, it is estimated that about 1,800,000 of these are out of work, since, on the average, about 42 days per year, or about 14 per cent of his total working time, is lost by each industrial wage-earner. About seven days of this lost time is due to sickness. Deducting this, the total loss caused by unemployment of the average wage-earner in the United States is about 35 days a year. This does not include loss from part-time employment, for which no reliable figures are to be had.

#### Days of Unemployment.

"The average of 35 days does not apply to every industry, for the workers in many industries are subject to longer periods of unemployment, while in others the average is low.

The report estimates that more than one-quarter of the industrial wage-earners were out of work on June 1, 1921, representing an estimated total of 3,500,000 persons.

Many concerns, the report says, are inventing means to better arrangements within their plants affecting the cause of unemployment attributed to personal and impersonal factors within the establishment. Better methods and more thorough organization to reduce friction and to develop industrial cooperation between employers and employees are being tested in many industries. The report points out that in attempting to remedy the causes of unemployment attributed to influences operating outside the plant, there is need for more adequate system of collecting and disseminating information showing the trend of prices, the actual cost of operation and revenues from industry. "Such a system," it is said, "will afford a reliable basis of comparison within plants at different times and between individual plants in the industry as a whole."

# Wanted! Cross Ties

PLUM BRANCH, S. C., February 6, 1922.

**SPECIFICATIONS:—QUALITY:** All Ties shall be free from any defects that may impair their strength or durability. Ties shall not have sap wood more than two inches wide on top of tie between twenty and forty inches from the middle. All ties shall be straight, well manufactured, cut square at the ends, have top and bottom parallel and have bark entirely removed.

All Ties must be 8 feet and 6 inches long.  
White and Post Oak—

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Size 6x6	Size 6x7	Size 6x8	Size 7x8	Size 7x9
30c.	40c.	60c.	70c.	80c.

Your particular attention is called to the fact that a piece of timber must square the above sizes in order to make the grades, and that it will be more economical in getting all grade fives, if possible, and by all means cut out ones and twos.

Inspection will be made and cash paid as ties are hauled in and properly placed on Charleston & Western Carolina Railway Company's Right-of-Way at Plum Branch, S. C.

Prices subject to change without notice.

## R. M. WINN

Plum Branch, S. C.

# Special Excursion Fares

—VIA—  
**Southern Railway System**

—ACCOUNT—  
**Mardi Gras Celebrations**  
Mobile, Ala.  
New Orleans, La.  
Pensacola, Fla.

February 27-28, 1922

Tickets on sale February 25 to 28 inclusive at one and one-half times the regular one-way fare, limited to reach original starting point prior to midnight March 7, 1922. Extension of final limit may be had until midnight March 22 by presenting ticket to agent and payment of fee of \$1.00.

For detailed information concerning fares and schedules call on ticket agents.

## SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

# Large Stock of Jewelry to Select From

We invite our Edgefield friends to visit our store when in Augusta. We have the largest stock of

- DIAMONDS
- WATCHES
- CLOCKS
- JEWELRY
- CUT GLASS
- AND SILVERWARE

of all kinds that we have ever shown. It will be a pleasure to show you through our stock. Every department is constantly replenished with the newest designs.

We call especial attention to our repairing department, which has every improvement. Your watch or clock made as good as new. Work ready for delivery in a short time.

## A. J. RENKL

980 Broad St.

Augusta, Ga.

**EAGLE "MIKADO" Pencil No. 174**

For Sale at your Dealer Made in five grades

ASK FOR THE YELLOW PENCIL WITH THE RED BAND

**EAGLE MIKADO**

**EAGLE PENCIL COMPANY, NEW YORK**