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Thousand-Dollar Foxes Being Raised Like Chic Kens On The Banks Of The Yukon.

by Frank G. Carpen ter.)

AIRBANKS .- During the past few weeks I have visited some of the largest fox farms of Alaska, There are altogether, perhaps, 10 or 12 in the territory. There are several along the Yukon River and some not far from Prince William sound. There is one at Copper Center on the trail between Fairbanks and Valdez, which is said to have 200 foxes, and to have sold three live ones not long ago for just about \$10,000. There is a farm at Baker Hot Springs which has paid as high as \$1500 apiece to the Indians for black fox pups, and one near here which has interested Eastern capital the amount of \$300,000. Judge Moran, a member of the Alaska Legis-lature, has established a fox farm at Shungnak on the Kobuk River in arctic Alaska. He is raising white foxes as well as blacks, reds and crosses, and says that these animals can be reared just as easily as cattle and hogs. During my stay in the Klondike I had a talk with Albert E. Lamb about the fox farms at White Horse and Dawson. Mr. Lamb is the registrar of Yukon territory and secretary of one of the fox-farming companies. He says there are four fox farms in that vicinity, and that the furs they produce are far superior to those of Eastern Can-ada and Prince Edward Island, Alaska and Yukon furs of all kinds are quoted by fur houses at 20 per cent higher than those of Eastern America, and fox skins from this region are worth 40 per cent more than those caught around Hudson Bay. Indeed, the best furs of the world come from the very cold climates, such as Siberla and Alaska, and the day will come when the furfarming industry of these latitudes will one of the great clothing industries of the world.



acres, divided up into woven wire pens. machinery cost \$18,000, and the breed-The wire is of steel and the mesh is ing animals \$\$7,000. There are alto-about an inch in diameter. gether about 200 animals, including Another farm on the Tanana is that foxes and others, and all that is needed belonging to two brothers named Va- to care for them is two men, chon. It is situated at Tolovana, about The Alaskan owners becam

The Alaskan owners became inter-135 miles from Fairbanks, and its high ested in fox farming by a visit from wire fence can be plainly seen from some of the farmers of Prince Edward

BlackCat

Siono Kittens

they will eat. When they get older it le here to buy too fat. and divided up into compartments, pers. They purchased a number and, On the farm at Fairbanks I saw one small pens or cages after they left, it was currently re- litter of foxes that was being mothered by a cat. She had three baby was a very nervous animal and the fear of the law, farmers feared she might kill her young. So they were taken away and given to the cat in place of her kitplays with them as though they were her real baby kittens. The thousand-

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Thirty Four Wild Silver Fox Skins Worth More Than \$21,000.

bearing animals. On the fox farm five-hundred-dollar cat. One fox raised here it costs \$11 a year to feed a fox, \$5 by a cat here at Fairbanks had a pelt to feed a mink and \$4.80 to feed a mar- which was valued at \$800.

held they become wormy. Other good

foods outside of flesh are biscuits, yeast bread, porridge, apples, milk and

ten or sable. The animals are given The breeding of foxes is very caresalmon, moose meat, horse meat and fully handled. At mating time the anlrabbits, and also carrots and turnips. mais are sensitive to strange sights, On the fox farm near Dawson a com- noises and smells, and the ranches are mon feed is rice and rabbits cooked to- closed to everyone but the keepers gether into a stew. One farm there Dogs and other animals are kept out feeds 16 rabbits and 15 pounds of rice of the neighborhood, and the keepers a day to 42 foxes. The stew is fed sometimes watch the pens from a dark cold morning and evening. The foxes chamber, out of which they look will come out of their dens and grab through a small window. It takes 50 it and carry it inside with them. After days or more after making before the a while they come back and get more. animals bear. They have only one lit-McCreary, who owns a fox farm at Cop- ter a year, and a litter may consist of per Center, varies his fox food between from one to nine pups. A fox will conrabbits and meat and fish. He gives tinue to bear up to 10 or 11 years of them two cooked meals a day and a age and will mate at eight months of third meal of raw rabbits, throwing age. The young look like dog pups and in as many as 50 rabbits for a single play and bark just like dogs. I am told feed. The farmers of Prince Edward that silver gray foxes usually breed Island have found tha foxes must have true to their color and that cross foxes plant food or vegetables. In their wild will sometimes throw black foxes. A state they eat not only flesh, but grain cross fox is the marriage of the black and berries, and if the latterr is with- and the red.

- There is a great demand among the fox farmers for wild foxes for breeding. eggs. The animals will cat dog bis- When the Fairbanks farm was started cuit, but they prefer plain hardtack. they pald as high as \$1000 apiece for Bread is liked better if grease drip- black foxes, and \$100 and upward for pings are poured upon it. Some farm- red ones. The Indiana brought them in ers use tallow as butter. Ground bone for sale and they are doing so now. is sometimes given, and a little lims for sale and they are doing so now. water is fed to growing foxes with fores but some of the farmers have water is fed to growing foxes with their milk. Young foxes are fed all they will est When they set older it been paying the Indians for the live is not well for their fur to make them young they catch, and shipping them day the Government fur warden here found 42 live young in the hands of Indians, and turned them all loose This number included 16 blacks, worth at least \$1000 or more aplece. When foxes which, when grown, will be they let the foxes go, from \$15,000 to In the Yukon, when an Indian finds a fox nest he watches it until the closed season is over and then tries to trap tens. The cat adopted them and she the foxes with traps so protected by wrappings that they will hold the animais without injuring them. There has been a great change in the prices of foxes and fox skins since the breaking out of the great war in Europe. Immediately following that time the great firm of Lampsons in London, which handled practically all of the furs of the world, closed its doors and declared it would hold no sales during the war. This knocked the life out of the foxes had died, and in looking the fur trade and prices fell. This was so during 1914 and 1915, ordinary fox dition, the farmer discovered but one skins dropped to one-third their value only. The owner of the cat appreciated and the fine ones were put away. his need and refused to sell his cat for Beavers brought less than half price less than \$500. The fox farmer was and marten and lynx skins were a drug indignant and refused. The result was in the market. In the latter part of that he lost five little foxes that might 1915 furs began to go up, and they are ures. They will continue to advance grandeur," "Matria ta," and this is re- firm at Fairbanks has averaged \$759 served for the sovereign. The men for skins of that kind sold in London. as he stepped to the side of the bogus. A variation of the silent third degree call each other "brother" even in mo- I have shown how Dalton got an aver-"countess" are two expressions which he got \$23,000 for 24 silver fox pelts. tended to wound. A "little prince" is a piece. One sold for more than \$1500 a clown. The most astonishing thing and the average for the whole 25 was is that the word "king" in ordinary more than \$1400 a piece. In March, 1919, usage is far from conplimentary. In 476 silver fox skins were sold at auc-Roumanian a scoundrel will be "a king tion in London, bringing from \$500 to the old court"; and miserable \$2700 per skin, of which more than half "the last of the bandits"; "a king to be came from fox farms. At the last sale This aversion is for the at Lampson's the average price of the wild silver fox skins was \$200, and that mania from a principality became a for the skins from the best ranches These figures show that the best Bible the "Book of Kings" has become skins of the world now come from the fox farms. The grade will probably improve with careful feeding and breeding and a better, knowledge of foxes. At the large open-air hospital con- More skins will be produced, and while nected with the Unifersity of Cam- prices will fall probably, the best skins bridge, England, it was found that will always command a very high sum. many of the patients arriving there Not only the silver fox, but the red fox, had such terrible wounds that the pain the cross fox, the blue fox and the made necessary such large and fre- white fox are now being raised in capquent doses of oplates that their prog- tivity. Upon the farms are also marress was seriously retarded. In an at- tens, mink and other fur-bearing anitempt to remedy this, Colonel Griffiths mals. The habits of all are now keeps these cases comfortably studied and it is only a question of suspended in a tub through which wa- time when the fur-farming industry ter at 100 degrees Fahrenheit is con- will have its place among the textile tinually running. One case which is and great clothing industries of the referred to had lain on a rubber mat- world. This industry will be carried on tress in a bath of this character for targely in Alaska and every coldsix weeks, and while for a period be- weather farmer will have his five or fore entering the bath the uncontrol- more acres of pens devoted to animal able pain from a laceration of the thigh farming. His money crop will be furs, was so great that the officer feared he farming. His money crop will be furs, would go insane, in the bath he had not just as wheat and cotton are the money crops of most of the farmers of the felt anything worse than the usual dis-

The business of fur farming was begun by the Canadians about 25 yeark tance, the for farm has the appearance they have to be handled carefully. Most There are also gin by the Canadians about so years of a great chicken yard with walls of the fox farmers will not permit vis- roofed with chicken wire outside the ported that they had made \$20,000 out Prince Edward Island, and that little of woven wire and hen coops of vari- itors to enter their property for fear main inclosure and near the bank of of their sales. Joseph Stirling, one of island today has the largest and most ous sizes inside them. Each of the they will frighten the foxes. The ani- the river. Among the older foxes there the owners of the farm, then went East are 210 different companies engaged and about 10 feet high. are 210 different companies engaged and about 10 feet high.

in 1913 were over \$4,- wire about a tennis court. The wire can handle them. During my visit to net profits Scotia, Newfoundland and New Bruns- rowing out from under the wire. At while I made a snapshot. I do not black-headed pin. The marten has a also in Quebec. Ontarlo and Western two feet, forming a little roof of that this writing, but three years ago they its fur is a rich brown. It is really a Canada. There are several fox farms width all around the coop. This is to would have brought \$1000 apiece. New England, some in New York prevent the foxes climbing over the The farm where the foxes are so Alaska sable, the best of which are will be pedigreed and registered and state and a number in the far north- wire. Each pen has its own kennel tame is near Hot Springs, about three equal to the sables of Russia.

western part of the continent. cluded to see if he could not raise their food inside to eat it.

able to get two pairs of silvers, which he bred on his farm on one of the islands. He succeeded and kept on buying wild animals and breeding tame ones. He was known to have many fine skins, but no one knew of the wealth he ,was making until the small

take any more of his cash for deposit hang me for this?" It then leaked out that he was selling

skins produced on his ranch for prices thing in themselves, but the detectives Rueff would run to the barred door of which averaged hundreds of dollars wanted a full confession while the ef- his cell and look out to see the keeper per skin, and that he was fast grow- fect they had created was still strong, apparently asleep. ing rich. I have before me a record Geldel had come recently from Con- Sometimes he would waken ing rich. of 203 skins sold by him from his farm necticut, where hanging was still legal, keeper and say, "Didn't you hear anyon Prince Edward Island. The sales and apparently he did not know that thing?" over a period of 15 years. In that the death penalty was exacted by electime he sold 203 for skins, which tricity in New York.

brought him in just about \$158,000, "No, they can't hang you," said on the average \$778.28 per skin. Reilly. Dalton also sold foxes for breeding. Then Geldel told the whole sordid leaped from bed, to find McCarthy wide

When he sold his ranch it had 20 years story of how he had climbed to the awake. of silver foxes upon it. He got \$500,- room of the aged broker, and when his 000 for it, or an average of \$25,000 per victim discovered him how he leaped asked the prisoner. upon the man who had once befriended pair.

In the meantime the news of Dal- him, stuffing the chloroform-soaked sleep," said McCarthy. ton's success had spread over the towel about his head and strangling world. Other fox farms were estab- him at the same time. lished and were capitalized at large Geidel was convicted.

"Abe" Rueff's Experience sums, according to the number of An early form of the silent third de- going crazy? My mind must be getting breeding animals they had. Many of them have paid large dividends, and it gree, in that no questions were asked, unsettled. I want to see Burns tohas been shown that, rightly handled, was practiced on "Abe" Rueff, the San there' is no other livestock industry Francisco political boas, who was conproduce anything like the victed of graft. profits of the raising of foxes.

But suppose we visit some of the big William J. Burns was handling the subjects, until at last Rueff broke gered and clutched the arm of his actox farms of Alaska. I say big, but case and was making every effort to down and half shouted: "Look here, here are none of them which cover wring a confession from the prisoner. There was a keeper in the prison my confession!" nore than five or ten acres, and if you want to start a new ranch Alaska gives named McCarthy, who was on duty near ou all out of doors to select from. The Rueff's cell. Burns discontinued his a stenographer took down. Afterward first farm we shall see is situated in calls and instructed this man to waken he repudlated this confession. the Tanana Valley, a mile and a half Rueff every night at 2 o'clock sharp. from Fairbanks. It consists of 10 acres This McCarthy did by banging on the a confession from Hans Schmidt, the by the detective sketched is outline for fairbanks. It consists of 10 acres This McCarthy did by banging on the bogus priest, who killed Anna Aumiller, of a human figure, and banding the of cleared land, the greater part of wall with a heavy stool. Rueff, the of cleared land, the greater part of wall with a heavy stool. Rueff, the After finding a rent receipt and a key which is covered with pens in which first few nights, did not pay much at- to the apartment in which the girl was

of cleared land, the greater part of wall with a heavy stool. Rueff, the After finding a rent receipt and a key drawing to Schmidt said: which is covered with pens in which first few nights, did not pay much at-these little enimals live, move and have tention to the disturbance, merely turn-killed and a photograph of the girl her-body of the girl you killed." their being. Looking at it from a dis- ing over and going to sleep again. At self Inspector Faurot traced Schmidt

he farm pr These me five acres, all fenced with steel wire live foxes from the Indians and trap-

the business, and their capitalization The wire is much like chicken wire, the other hand, they get acquainted seem to be devoted mostly to the ba- of the industry and its possibilities.

For Pens.

is about \$30,000,000. The most of the but is made of tough steel, and it ex- with their keepers and there are some bies. The latter are the size of kittens He thought it ridiculous that the farmcompanies are paying dividends, and tends as high above the ground as the which become so tame that strangers and are far more cunning and pretty. ers of Alaska should not be able to They have long, bushy talls, little do as well as those of Canada, 000,000. The island has about 600 fox is sunk about four feet in the ground a fox farm on the Tanana River my sharp noses, and their eyes sparkle like pecially as this country has better ranches, and the business has spread and is then bent over so that it runs daughter, who is with me, picked up jet. In the same pens are beby mar- foxes and makes better fur. When he to other parts of Canada. Over 400 under the ground for about two feet, two little sliver gray fellows of the tens, with heads not bigger than the came back he aided in organizing the companies are engaged in it in Nova This is to prevent the foxes from bur- size of kittens and hugged them to her fist of a baby and eyes the size of a company. wick, and farms have been started the top the wire has an overhang of know what those foxes are worth at gorgeous yellow throat. The rest of scientific study of the rearing of fur-

sable, and is sometimes known as the the results of breeding. The animals

made of boards. This is a house like or four miles from the river. It was To return to the big ten-acre for The chief originator of fox farming a dog kennel. It is entered by a board started by men who have been in the farm at Fairbanks, it belongs to men was Charles Dalton, who is now a mil- chute up which the fox runs when it business of foxraising on Prince Ed- who live here in Alaska, and to others lionaire member of Parliament. He goes in, and in some cases wooden ward Island. They have gotten their in New York and New Jersey. It was lionaire member of Parliament. He goes in, and in some cases wooden ward Island. They have not in the form a for the fallent of a goes in and in some cases wooden ward Island. They have not in the form a f black fox whose, skin would have this includes the cost of the farm and

Inside the

foxes in captivity. He started with There is but one pair of foxes in each brought almost as much as the price the equipment and the breeding ani-I have asked a number of the manred foxes, but about 20 years ago was pen. The animals are very timid, and paid for it. That farm covers about six mals. The land, kennels and all the agers as to the food used for their fur- have been worth \$25,000, and all for a now fast coming back to their old fig-

> to the rectory of the church where he cated how the body had been dismem- title of his or her "highness" or "his and silver fox skins will probably be The inspector and the men with him with the parts which had been discov- foreigner. The national idiom knows As it is now a good black or a silver was acting as a priest. waited in the reception-room while the ered. Bit by bit Schmidt detailed the only one appellation of this kind, "thy for skin brings an enormous price. The crime for which he was later consuspected man came downstairs. "Is this Hans Schmidt?" asked Faurot demned to die.

priest "I am he," said Schmidt.

searching for something. Withdrawing of setting fires in the Berlin and Windit, he fumbled with the rent receipt for emere hotels in that city, resulting in the apartment where the girl had been the loss of several lives.

murdered and with the key to the door. For two hours Allender, alone with Schmidt saw them in his hand and must the girl in his office, had questioned have recognized them, for he glanced her, with no result. He himself was of the old court"; and miserable \$2700 per skin, of which more than half nervously toward the door, and his worn out with fatigue and exaspera- wretch may be "a king and a half"; of the skins, selling for \$500 or more, fingers began twisting and untwisting tion, yet he knew if he lost his temper convulsively. the girl would have the advantage of

him

**Roumanian** Titles.

Indianapolis News,

## Hans Schmidt Confesses

As though this was not what he was looking for, Faurot thrust his hand toward Barbara a handful of matches. again into his pocket. This time he

Mechanically the girl went through devour the receipt and key the detective thrust in front of him a picture of motions with her hands as though scraping together a little pile of paper and waste, struck a match and for an "You killed that girl, didn't you?"

Faurot almost shouted. "You not only instant held it to the imaginary tinder. With a cry she dropped the match killed her but you cut up her body, on the heavy rug of the office didn't you?"

Drops of perspiration stood out on threw her head upon her arms at the the brow of the bogus priest. He stag- table. When she was calm again she con-

cuser for support. "Yes, I did," he stammered.

They took him to the apartment sons interested in the girl declared that where he had killed Anna Aumiller, she was innocent and that under the There Faurot made his prisoner sit on strain the suggestion, so subtly made, the edge of the very hed on which he forced her to act as she did.

had put Anna Aumiller to death. Rapid-

Roumanian traditions are democratic in that the language ignores The prisoner took a pencil and indi- titles of nobility. In Roumania the comfort from long confinement in bed. United States,

dollar foxes seem to like their new The Fairbanks fox farm is making a mother quite as well as their old one. The managers tell me it is necessary bearing animals. It keeps records of to have cats around a fox farm for such complications. They say that one man in Eastern Canada lost a litter of all crosses will be carefully reported. silver foxes because he would not pay The effect of different kinds of food on a high price for a cat. The mother of the fur will be noted, and the life his tory of each pair of foxes carefully around to find a cat in the proper conkept. The company keeps a cost-accounting sheet, just like a factory, and it watches everything connected with the raising of artificial furs as far as

was practiced with results by William ments of anger. "Marquis" and age of \$778 for 203 skins. At one time Allender, chief of detectives of St. Louis, Faurot reached into his pocket as if in the case of Barbara Arnold, accused have in Roumania a significance in- and of those three brought over \$1500,

> 10 hanged." word, not for the thing, for Rou-Suddenly he wheeled and held out

kingdom; yet the feeling is such that \$1200. in the Roumanian translation of the "Now, Barbara," he said, in matter of withdrew it like a flash and before fact tones, "show us how you set fire Blok the "Book of Kings" has Schmidt's terrified eyes had ceased to to the Windemere."

## Baths to Ease Pain.

fessed that she had set fire to the hotel and told just how she had done it. Per-

THE SILENT THIRD DEGREE last it got on his nerves. He would (Continued From Page 3.) banks of the neighborhood refused to said to Reilly: "I did it. Can they jump off his cot at the first sound and demand, "What was that?"

Now the words "I did it" were some-McCarthy would make no reply, and

"Not a sound," McCarthy would an-

swer. This formula was gone through night after night until on one occasion Rueff

"Didn't you hear anything at all?"

"Nothin' but you talkin' in your

"What was I talking about?" said Rueff, alarmed.

"The graft cases," said McCarthy. "My heavens!" cried Rueff. "Am I Anna Aumiller.

morrow." Next day the detective called on prisoner. Rueff tried to bring up the

Rueff was in prison awaiting trial, graft cases, but Burns turned to other Burns, you've got to listen to this! It's

Then he told the whole story, which