

FOX BREEDING INDUSTRY DRAWS ATTENTION OF RAILROAD JOURNAL

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Preparations for Mating of Foxes at the Fromm-Nieman Ranches

In these days of progress and improvement it is very difficult to keep pace with the great strides being made in the various lines of activity, and one which has shown phenomenal growth is that of the breeding of animals for the production of fur. We understand that there are something like 2,500 fox breeding farms in the United States and Canada but so far as we are informed possibly the largest and most successful one is located on the Superior Division of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railway at Thiensville, Wisconsin.

Fromm Bros., Nieman and Company's fur farm at the above point has upwards of 1,000 acres of land now devoted to the production of Silver Black Fox. These farms are arranged in four units and equipped with 2,500 separate wired pens, each pen being about 60 feet square and enclosed with a 7-foot wire mesh fence. Inside of each pen is a small house with separate compartments in which Mr. and Mrs. Fox reside. These pens and compartments house 2,500 pair of breeding foxes. This breeding stock is valued at from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and \$6,000 per pair. The average increase last year in the number of foxes on this farm was four pups to a pair, and these mature in about six months time. The litters begin to arrive in the early spring so that the pups are ready for the furrier in the fall.

One can see scarcely conceive the enormous amount of work in-

olved in caring for and feeding a colony of foxes. It requires 25,000 pounds of meat, 12,000 pounds of bread, and 15,000 pounds of vegetables per week. In addition to this a ration of lettuce is fed during the hot summer months. At one time this concern purchased 14 carloads of beef hearts and livers from Swift and Company and also shipped upwards of 2,500 horses from Montana as the meat ration used is largely horse meat. Many new buildings are now under construction for the caring of these animals. There are upwards of 50 men employed at all times.

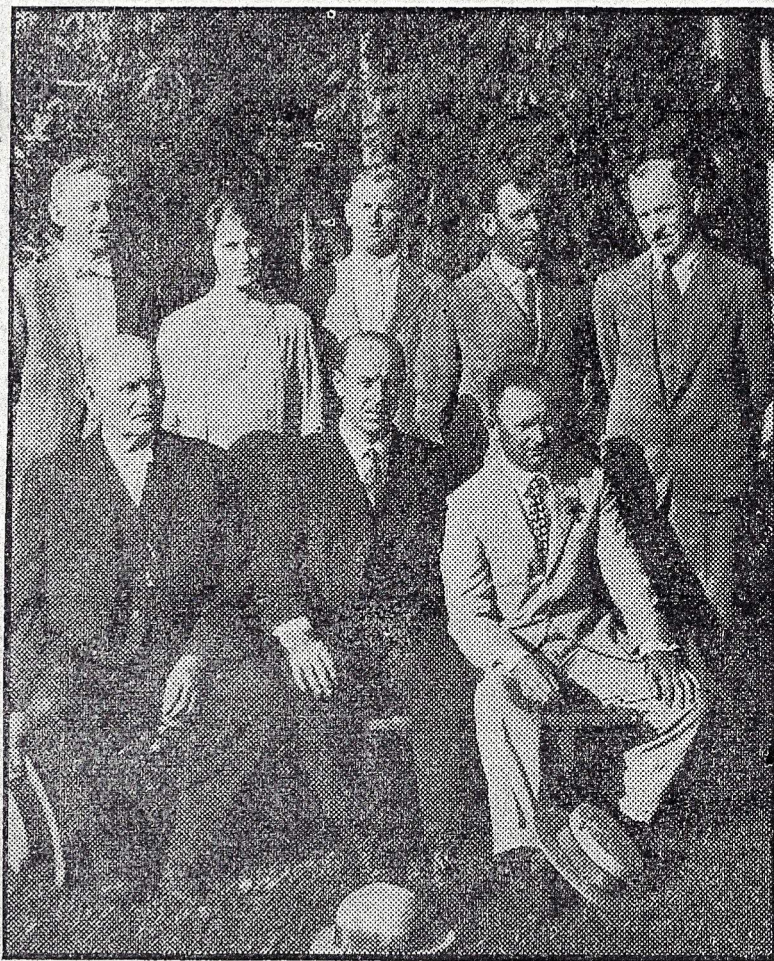
Recently a large brokerage house offered Mr. Nieman \$8,000,000 for his lay-out, which offer was declined. Next year it is expected that they will have on hand about 15,000 foxes which will turn out over 10,000 pelts per year.

One of the interesting features of this farm is a facsimile of a check, which Mr. Nieman received last year as the first payment from the New York Auction Company, drawn on the National City Bank of New York for \$785,153.10 for last year's crop of pelts, and Mr. Nieman expects that the checks for the pelts alone this year will be considerably in excess of \$1,000,000. Foxes are sold for breeding purposes and shipped all over the world.

Mr. Nieman has built up this remarkable business, starting with 34 pair of foxes in 1920.—Today and Tomorrow Along the Milwaukee Railroad.

Editors Note—The Fromm-Nieman Silver Cross Fox Cooperation of Hamburg and Thiensville this year sold 6,600 pelts at the New York, January fur auction at an average price of \$184, making a total of \$1,214,400, as compared to \$785,153.10 a year ago.

The Fromm Family



Upper Row—Left to, Right: Henry Fromm; Mrs. Edwin J. Nieman (nee Erna Fromm); John Fromm; Walter Fromm; Henry Fromm.
Lower Row—Left to Right: Fred Fromm, father; Arthur Fromm; Herbert Fromm.