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FUR FARMS

OF

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS, OTTAWA, CANADA

Fur Statistics Branch

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE FUR FARMS OF CANADA, 1926

The continued growth of the fur-farming industry of Canada is shown by the statistics for the year 1926. The number of farms in operation in that year was 2,702, compared with 2,283 in 1925, while the total value of property (comprising land and buildings and fur-bearing animals) was \$14,888,705, an increase over the preceding year of \$1,647,460 or 12 per cent.

FUR FARMS.- The number of farms in 1926 comprised 2,517 fox farms, 95 mink farms, 57 raccoon farms and 33 farms raising other kinds of fur-bearing animals, such as skunk, marten, fisher, etc. There were also in operation 107 muskrat farms and 10 beaver farms, but full particulars could not be supplied by the operators of these farms and statistics regarding them are therefore omitted from the present report.

Fur-bearing Animals Born, Died and Killed for Pelts. - The number of fur-bearing animals born in captivity comprised 37,912 silver foxes, 1,236 patch or cross foxes, 881 red foxes, 466 blue foxes, and 5,749 other kinds of fur-bearing animals. The chief in number of the miscellaneous kinds born were Chinchilla rabbit with 3,236 and mink with 1,178. Silver and blue foxes show increases over the preceding year, while patch or cross and red foxes show decreases. The total number of fur-bearing animals born in captivity in 1926 shows an increase over the preceding year of 6,250, or 16 per cent. The number of animals which died was 9,862, compared with 8,383 in 1925. Information was collected in 1926 for the first time regarding the cause of death of foxes. Replies were received giving the cause of death of 1,137 adult foxes and 3,000 young foxes, and data regarding these will be given in the final report of the industry. The number of silver foxes killed for pelts was 17,475, an increase over the year 1925 of 5,950 or 52 per cent. The total number of all kinds of fur-bearing animals on the farms killed for pelts during the year was 20,345, compared with 14,187 in 1925.

Fur-bearing Animals Sold. - Decreases are shown in the number and value of fur-bearing animals sold from the farms, this decrease being general for all kinds excepting mink, raccoon, fisher, Siberian hare and Karakul sheep, for which increases are shown. Average values for animals sold were lower than in 1925 for all kinds excepting red fox, mink, Chinchilla rabbit and Karakul sheep. The number of silver foxes sold in 1926 was 10,469, valued at \$2,171,480, an average value of \$207, compared with 12,090, valued at \$2,755,668 and an average value of \$228 in 1925. The total number of all kinds of fur-bearing animals sold was 14,211, valued at \$2,276,664 compared with 16,007, valued at \$2,897,270 in the preceding year.

Pelts Sold.- The number of pelts sold, on the other hand, shows a large increase compared with the year 1925. The total number sold in 1926 was 16,643, valued at \$1,218,111, compared with 11,293, valued at \$781,383 in 1925. The number of silver fox pelts sold was 14,045, valued at \$1,168,020, an increase in number of 5,057 or 56 per cent, and an increase in value of \$431,731, or 59 per cent. The average value of silver fox pelts was \$83 in 1926 and \$82 in 1925.

Total Revenue.- The total amount received by the fur farmers from the sale of live fur-bearing animals and pelts in 1926 was \$3,494,775, a decrease from the preceding year of \$183,878 or 5 per cent.

Fur-bearing Animals on Farms at the End of the Year.- The value of the animals on the farms at the end of the year 1926 was \$11,007,530, the value of the silver foxes amounting to \$10,591,054 or 96 per cent of the total. Blue foxes are second in importance with a total value of \$149,990, and patch foxes third with \$110,517. The raising of fur-bearing animals other than foxes has been engaged in up to the present to only a limited extent, the total value of the miscellaneous fur-bearing animals on the farms at the end of the year 1926 amounting to only \$134,260, or 1 per cent of the total value of animals on the farms. Mink is chief among the miscellaneous kinds with a total value of \$79,145. The total number of animals on the farms at the end of the year was 56,216, an increase over the preceding year of 5,327 or 10 per cent.

Detailed statistics of the fur-farming industry in 1926 with comparative statistics for 1925 are given in the following tables.

THE FUR FARMING INDUSTRY, CANADA

1. Number of Fur Farms, Canada, 1925 and 1926

Kind of Fur Farm	1925	1926
	No. of Farms	No. of Farms
Fox	2,130	2,517
Mink	60	95
Raccoon	50	57
Skunk	5	5
Marten	4	7
Fisher	3	3
Badger	1	-
Coyote	7	1
Chinchilla Rabbit	15	14
Rabbit, n.e.s.	6	1
Siberian hare	1	1
Karakul Sheep	1	1
TOTAL	2,283	2,702

2. Number of Fur Farms, by Provinces, 1925 and 1926.

Province	1925		1926	
	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island	570	-	575	-
Nova Scotia	184	8	241	9
New Brunswick	206	-	220	-
Quebec	432	24	586	31
Ontario	444	51	496	62
Manitoba	41	12	59	15
Saskatchewan	23	19	36	17
Alberta	115	5	139	7
British Columbia	95	34	151	44
Yukon Territory	20	-	14	-
TOTAL	2,130	153	2,517	185

3. Value of Property, by Provinces, 1925 and 1926

Province	1925			1926		
	Value of land and buildings	Value of fur-bearing animals	Total value of property	Value of land and buildings	Value of fur-bearing animals	Total Value of Property
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island	955,263	3,290,185	4,245,448	1,000,716	3,304,610	4,305,326
Nova Scotia	180,260	558,740	739,000	194,205	663,441	857,646
New Brunswick	260,631	968,765	1,229,396	249,954	957,443	1,207,397
Quebec	460,349	1,212,347	1,672,696	636,563	1,569,342	2,205,905
Ontario	571,790	1,789,727	2,361,517	710,407	1,988,265	2,698,672
Manitoba	258,605	645,888	904,493	271,352	660,148	931,500
Saskatchewan	88,870	175,655	264,525	112,726	372,945	485,671
Alberta	249,302	716,442	965,744	306,876	781,663	1,088,539
British Columbia	270,644	442,370	713,014	362,376	653,203	1,015,579
Yukon Territory	47,512	97,900	145,412	36,000	56,470	92,470
TOTAL	3,343,226	9,898,019	13,241,245	3,881,175	11,007,530	14,888,705

4. Number of Fur-bearing Animals Born, Died and Killed for Pelts, 1925 and 1926.

Kind	1925			1926		
	Born	Died	Killed for pelts	Born	Died	Killed for pelts
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Silver fox	31,987	6,763	11,525	37,912	7,912	17,475
Patch or Cross fox	1,451	451	928	1,238	365	923
Red fox	1,151	229	1,013	881	248	905
Blue fox	342	65	-	466	132	21
White fox	-	-	1	-	-	-
Mink	676	190	124	1,178	222	123
Raccoon	244	82	51	287	69	56
Skunk	109	39	16	182	67	119
Marten	4	8	-	6	4	1
Fisher	-	2	-	2	2	4
Coyote	8	-	2	5	2	10
Siberian hare	147	-	52	83	2	13
Chinchilla rabbit	1,719	207	59	3,236	643	668
Rabbit, n.e.s.	1,557	234	416	327	109	27
Karakul Sheep	601	113	-	443	85	-
TOTAL	39,996	8,383	14,187	46,246	9,862	20,345

5. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals Sold from Fur Farms, Canada, 1925 and 1926

Kind	1925			1926		
	Number	Value	Average Value	Number	Value	Average Value
		\$	\$		\$	\$
Silver fox	12,090	2,755,668	228	10,469	2,171,480	207
Patch or Cross fox	398	28,687	72	291	19,803	68
Red fox	184	2,828	15	158	2,653	17
Blue fox	297	65,620	221	149	20,225	136
Mink	439	15,654	36	599	25,692	43
Raccoon	130	3,683	28	196	4,860	25
Skunk	22	242	11	17	188	11
Marten	4	400	100	3	230	77
Fisher	2	500	250	8	825	103
Coyote	2	26	13	-	-	-
Siberian hare	40	252	6	48	173	4
Chinchilla rabbit	1,432	16,384	11	1,210	14,402	12
Rabbit, n.e.s.	478	2,574	5	43	133	3
Karakul sheep	489	4,752	10	1,020	16,000	16
TOTAL	16,007	2,897,270	-	14,211	2,276,664	-

6. Number and Value of Pelts sold from Fur Farms, Canada, 1925 and 1926

	1925			1926		
	Number	Value \$	Average Value \$	Number	Value \$	Average Value \$
Silver fox	8,988	736,229	82	14,045	1,168,020	83
Patch or Cross fox	732	27,880	38	981	34,177	35
Red fox	997	14,585	15	918	12,905	14
Blue fox	-	-	-	1	60	60
White fox	1	40	40	-	-	-
Mink	132	1,888	14	141	2,044	15
Raccoon	47	242	5	51	295	6
Skunk	16	65	4	139	252	2
Fisher	1	72	72	2	85	43
Coyote	2	30	15	10	60	6
Siberian hare	52	97	2	11	7	1
Chinchilla rabbit	-	-	-	333	178	1
Rabbit, n.e.s.	325	195	60 cents	11	28	3
TOTAL	11,293	781,383	-	16,643	1,218,111	-

7. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals on Fur Farms, at date of December 31, 1925 and 1926

Kind	1925		1926	
	Number	Value \$	Number	Value \$
Silver fox	42,125	9,536,097	47,404	10,591,054
Patch or Cross fox	1,736	111,293	1,742	110,517
Red fox	1,196	23,305	1,163	21,709
Blue fox	735	126,205	1,050	149,990
Mink	982	37,161	1,650	79,145
Raccoon	445	6,487	686	16,418
Skunk	129	877	88	778
Marten	35	2,805	69	4,870
Fisher	15	2,035	46	6,600
Lynx	3	150	3	150
Coyote	59	715	4	55
Badger	3	60	-	-
Siberian hare	35	220	39	188
Chinchilla rabbit	1,215	12,865	1,843	15,303
Rabbit, n.e.s.	967	5,334	252	1,944
Karakul Sheep	1,209	32,410	177	8,809
TOTAL	50,389	9,898,019	56,216	11,007,530

