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PRELIMINARY REPORT

on the

FUR FARMS

of

CANADA

1927

Published by Authority of the Hon. James Malcolm, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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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, 1927

Number of Farms:- The number of fur farms in operation in Canada in 1927 was 3,380, an increase of 671 over the preceding year. The number of farms classified as fox farms in 1927 was 3,067, an increase of 544 over the number recorded in 1926. The mink farms numbered 163, an increase of 68, and the raccoon farms, 111, an increase of 53. Other kinds of fur farms in operation in 1927 comprised skunk, marten, fisher, coyote, rabbit, and karakul sheep. There were also in operation 172 muskrat farms, in comparison with 107 in 1926, information regarding which is not included in the statistics of the present report, as the operators of the farms were unable to furnish particulars similar to those supplied by operators of other kinds of fur farms, such as number of fur bearing animals on the farm, number born, died, etc.

Value of Property:- The total value of property, comprising fur-bearing animals on the farm at the end of the year, and the land and buildings, was \$18,355,423, an increase over the preceding year of \$3,389,238 or 23 p.c. The value of the fur-bearing animals accounted for \$13,465,882 of the total in 1927, and the value of the land and buildings, \$4,889,541. Prince Edward Island occupies first place in the industry in order of value of property, with a total of \$4,678,289, an increase over the preceding year of \$372,963, or 8½ p.c. Ontario is second with \$3,562,204, an increase of \$786,052, or 28 p.c., and Quebec third with \$3,098,573, an increase of \$892,668, or 40 p.c.

Number of Fur-bearing Animals Born, Died and Killed for Pelts:- The number of fur-bearing animals born in captivity during the year 1927 was 58,542. Silver fox heads the list with a total of 45,750. The number of patch foxes born was 1,429, of red foxes, 1,066, and of blue foxes, 1,313. The number of mink born was 1,995. With the exception of Chinchilla and other kinds of rabbit, the mink is second to silver fox in the number of animals born during the year. All kinds of fur-bearing animals show increases over the preceding year in number born, excepting skunk, marten and Siberian hare, for which decreases are recorded. The total increase over the preceding year in the number of all kinds of fur-bearing animals born in captivity was 12,129, or 26 p.c. The number of animals which died during the year was 13,241, comprising 10,084 silver foxes, and 3,157 other kinds of fur-bearing animals. The final report on the fur farming industry for 1927 will contain particulars regarding the various causes of death. The number of fur-bearing animals killed for pelts was 25,558, an increase over the preceding year of 5,120,

or 25 p.c. Of the total number killed for pelts, the silver fox accounts for 20,890, or 82 p.c.

Fur-bearing Animals Sold:- The records show that 16,382 fur-bearing animals, valued at \$2,644,062 were sold from fur farms in 1927, an increase over the preceding year of 2,118 in number and of \$349,433 in value. Silver fox is of chief importance, with a total of 12,804 animals, valued at \$2,501,816, an average value of \$195 per fox. Compared with the preceding year, the total number of silver foxes sold show an increase of 2,290, the total value an increase of \$312,486, and the average value per fox, a decrease of \$13. Average values were higher than in 1926 for red fox, blue fox, mink, skunk, marton, Siberian hare, rabbit, and Karakul sheep, and lower for silver fox, patch or cross fox, raccoon and fisher.

Pelts Sold:- The number of pelts sold from fur farms during the year also shows an increase over 1926. The total number sold in 1927 was 25,018, and the total value \$2,154,080, compared with 16,732, valued at \$1,224,941 in 1926. The number of silver fox pelts sold was 21,128, an increase over the preceding year of 7,007, the total value \$2,066,900, an increase of \$892,200, and the average value per pelt, \$98, an increase of \$15. In 1926 the records show only 1 blue fox pelt disposed of, while in 1927 there were 182 blue fox pelts sold with a value of \$8,053, and an average value per pelt of \$44. The number of mink pelts was double that of the preceding year, while the average value was the same. The number of raccoon pelts sold was 168, compared with 51 in 1926. Increases in number of pelts are shown for all kinds, excepting patch or cross fox, skunk and coyote.

Total Revenue:- The total revenue to the fur farmers in 1927 from the sale of live fur-bearing animals and of pelts was \$4,798,142, an increase over the preceding year of \$1,278,572, or 36 p.c. To the total for 1927, the silver fox contributed \$4,568,716 or 95 p.c.

Fur-Bearing Animals on Farms at the end of the Year:- Increases in number and value, compared with the preceding year, are shown for all of the principal kinds of fur-bearing animals on the farms at the end of the year. The number of silver foxes was 57,961, valued at \$12,824,787, an increase in number over the preceding year of 10,304, and an increase in value of \$2,172,483. The number of blue foxes increased from 1,050 in 1926 to 1,713 in 1927, mink from 1,650 to 2,615 and raccoon from 689 to 1,238. The total number of all kinds of fur-bearing animals on the farms at the end of the year 1927 was 72,125 and the total value \$13,465,882. The silver fox represents 95 p.c. of the total value, other kinds of foxes 2½ p.c., mink 1 p.c., and other kinds of fur-bearing animals 1½ p.c.

The following tables give detailed statistics of the fur farming industry for the years 1926 and 1927.

THE FUR FARMING INDUSTRY, CANADA

1. Number of Fur Farms, Canada, 1926 and 1927.

Kind of Fur Farm	1926	1927	Increase or Decrease
Fox	2,523	3,067	Inc. 544
Mink	95	163	Inc. 68
Raccoon	58	111	Inc. 53
Skunk	5	3	Dec. 2
Marten	7	9	Inc. 2
Fisher	3	5	Inc. 2
Coyote	1	2	Inc. 1
Chinchilla rabbit	14	15	Inc. 1
Rabbit, n.e.s.	1	3	Inc. 2
Siberian hare	1	-	Dec. 1
Karakul sheep	1	2	Inc. 1
TOTAL	2,709	3,380	Inc. 671

2. Number of Fur Farms, by Provinces, 1926 and 1927.

Province	1926		1927	
	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island	575	-	720	-
Nova Scotia	241	9	313	20
New Brunswick	220	-	296	-
Quebec	586	31	738	51
Ontario	504	62	573	118
Manitoba	59	15	72	24
Saskatchewan	36	17	44	15
Alberta	139	7	127	7
British Columbia	149	45	171	77
Yukon Territory	14	-	13	1
TOTAL	2,523	186	3,067	313

3. Value of Property, by Provinces, 1926 and 1927.

Province	1926			1927		
	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	1,000,716	3,304,610	4,305,326	1,166,369	3,511,920	4,678,289
Nova Scotia	194,205	663,441	857,646	214,840	757,123	971,963
New Brunswick	249,954	957,443	1,207,397	300,850	1,174,025	1,474,875
Quebec	636,563	1,569,342	2,205,905	793,428	2,305,145	3,098,573
Ontario	726,607	2,049,545	2,776,152	952,008	2,610,196	3,562,204
Manitoba	271,352	660,148	931,500	375,243	813,135	1,188,378
Saskatchewan	112,726	372,945	485,671	139,640	496,305	635,945
Alberta	306,876	731,663	1,038,539	325,799	866,232	1,192,031
British Columbia	362,376	653,203	1,015,579	532,514	869,621	1,402,135
Yukon Territory	36,000	56,470	92,470	38,850	62,180	101,030
TOTAL	3,897,375	11,068,510	14,966,135	4,889,541	13,465,332	18,355,423

4. Number of Fur-bearing Animals Born, Died and Killed for Pelts, 1926 and 1927.

Kind	1926			1927		
	Born	Died	Killed for Pelts	Born	Died	Killed for Pelts
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Silver fox	38,068	7,936	17,555	45,750	10,084	20,890
Patch or cross fox	1,238	358	923	1,429	355	892
Red fox	833	248	918	1,066	239	1,068
Blue fox	466	132	21	1,313	410	235
Mink	1,178	213	123	1,995	414	223
Raccoon	296	70	56	515	124	145
Skunk	132	67	119	55	18	9
Marten	6	4	1	5	10	6
Fisher	2	2	4	13	10	-
Coyote	5	2	10	5	2	-
Siberian hare	83	2	13	25	13	-
Chinchilla rabbit	3,236	643	668	3,851	1,174	1,288
Rabbit, n.e.s.	327	109	27	1,899	314	711
Karakul sheep	443	85	-	621	74	91
TOTAL	46,413	9,871	20,438	58,542	13,241	25,558

5. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals Sold from Fur Farms, Canada, 1926 and 1927.

Kind	1926			1927		
	Number	Value	Average Value	Number	Value	Average Value
		\$	\$		\$	\$
Silver fox	10,514	2,189,330	208	12,804	2,501,816	195
Patch or cross fox	291	19,803	68	359	23,350	65
Red fox	159	2,663	17	205	4,460	22
Blue fox	149	20,225	136	166	28,115	169
Mink	599	25,692	43	1,004	58,342	58
Raccoon	203	4,955	24	344	7,626	22
Skunk	17	188	11	13	190	15
Marten	3	230	77	7	700	100
Fisher	8	825	103	6	635	100
Coyote	-	-	-	1	6	6
Siberian hare	48	173	4	13	58	5
Chinchilla rabbit	1,210	14,412	12	1,028	11,860	12
Rabbit, n.e.s.	43	133	3	370	2,689	7
Karakul sheep	1,020	16,000	16	62	4,215	68
TOTAL	14,264	2,294,629	-	16,382	2,644,062	-

6. Number and Value of Pelts Sold from Fur Farms, Canada, 1926 and 1927.

Kind	1926			1927		
	Number	Value \$	Average Value \$	Number	Value \$	Average Value \$
Silver fox	14,121	1,174,700	83	21,128	2,066,900	98
Patch or cross fox	981	34,177	34	868	49,125	57
Red fox	931	13,055	14	1,106	21,257	19
Blue fox	1	60	60	182	8,053	44
Mink	141	2,044	15	297	4,546	15
Raccoon	51	295	6	168	1,193	7
Skunk	139	252	2	15	30	2
Fisher	2	85	33	2	60	30
Coyote	10	60	6	5	60	12
Siberian hare	11	7	1	-	-	-
Chinchilla rabbit	333	178	53 cents	1,090	1,701	2
Rabbit, n.e.s.	11	28	2	71	182	3
Karakul sheep	-	-	-	80	800	10
Marten	-	-	-	6	173	28
TOTAL	16,732	1,224,941	-	25,018	2,154,080	-

7. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals on Fur Farms at date of December 31, 1926 and 1927.

Kind	1926		1927	
	Number	Value \$	Number	Value \$
Silver fox	47,657	10,652,304	57,961	12,824,787
Patch or cross fox	1,742	110,517	1,747	122,400
Red fox	1,163	21,709	1,198	28,460
Blue fox	1,050	149,990	1,713	221,780
Mink	1,650	79,145	2,615	148,005
Raccoon	639	16,448	1,238	41,093
Skunk	88	778	111	1,100
Marten	69	4,870	112	10,510
Fisher	46	6,600	57	12,610
Lynx	3	150	2	100
Coyote	4	55	29	490
Siberian hare	39	188	16	80
Chinchilla rabbit	1,343	15,303	3,085	23,645
Rabbit, n.e.s.	252	1,944	1,129	9,230
Karakul sheep	177	8,800	1,082	21,539
TOTAL	56,472	11,068,810	72,125	13,465,862

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