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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

FUR STATISTICS BRANCH

PRELIMINARY REPORT

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FUR FARMS

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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, 1928

The importance of the fur farming industry in Canada is shown by the statistics for the year 1928, just made available. The total number of fur farms in that year was 4,371 of which 3,676 were fox farms, 468 miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms (mink, raccoon, marten, fisher, etc.) and 227 muskrat and beaver farms. The total value of property was \$22,613,891, divided as follows; land and buildings, \$6,500,888, and fur-bearing animals, \$16,113,003. The number of fur farms shows an increase over the preceding year of 806, or 23 per cent, and the value of property an increase of \$3,774,578 or 20 per cent. In the past five years the number of fur farms has increased by 252 per cent and the value of property by 168 per cent. The term "fur farm" covers properties devoted entirely to the raising of fur-bearing animals and also the sections of general farms where fur-farming is carried on as a branch of the operations. Fox farms are the most numerous with a total of 3,676, followed by mink farms with a total of 268, muskrat farms with 216, and raccoon farms with 157. In reports of the industry for previous years a separate section was provided for muskrat and beaver farms, as certain particulars furnished by operators of other kinds of fur farms, viz., number of fur-bearing animals on the farm, number born, and number which died, could only be given approximately by operators of muskrat and beaver farms. It was decided, however, for the purposes of the present report, to include muskrat and beaver in all of the statistical tables, and comparative statistics for 1927 shown herein, have therefore been changed to accord with the 1928 statistical tables. It should be noted that the numbers shown for muskrat and beaver in the tables of fur-bearing animals born, died and on farms at the end of the year, are based on estimates furnished by the operators of the farms, and represent only approximately the actual numbers of these animals.

Fur-bearing Animals, Born, Died and Killed for Pelts.-

The number of fur-bearing animals born in captivity in 1928 was 168,454, or more than double the number recorded for the preceding year. The number of muskrat estimated as born was 94,359, and this number accounts for over half of the total number of fur-bearing animals shown as born on the farms during the year 1928. The number of silver foxes born was 57,953, an increase over the preceding year of 11,913, or 26 per cent.

The number of mink born was 3,822, or nearly double the number recorded for 1927. Other kinds of fur-bearing animals born include patch or cross fox, red fox, blue fox, raccoon, skunk, marten, fisher, badger, coyote, rabbit and beaver. The number of fur-bearing animals which died on fur farms during the year, including adults and young, was 17,223, compared with a total of 14,480 in 1927. The number of animals killed for pelts was 32,609, compared with 29,800 in the preceding year.

Fur-bearing Animals Sold and Pelts Sold.- The farms record a total of 25,958 fur-bearing animals sold in 1928, with a total value of \$3,760,470, an increase over the preceding year of more than a million dollars. To the total for 1928 silver fox contributed \$3,475,824, or 92 per cent. The number of silver foxes sold was 17,163, compared with 12,804 in 1927. Considerable numbers of muskrat are sold to be used as foundation stock for new fur farms. The number of muskrat disposed of by the farms in 1928 was 2,647, valued at \$16,206. The number of pelts of all kinds sold from fur farms in 1928 was only slightly larger than the number shown for the preceding year, the total for each of the two years being as follows: 1927, number of pelts 30,262, value \$2,163,014; and 1928, number of pelts 30,435, value \$2,345,635. Silver fox with 21,173 pelts, valued at \$2,235,555, accounted for 95 per cent of the total value of pelts sold in 1928. The average price for silver fox pelts in 1928 was \$106, compared with \$98 in 1927 and \$83 in 1926. Patch or cross fox was next in order of total value of pelt sales, followed by red fox, blue fox, muskrat and mink.

The total revenue derived by the fur farmers from the sale of live fur-bearing animals and pelts in 1928 was \$6,106,105, to which total the sales of live fur-bearing animals contributed 62 per cent and the sales of pelts, 38 per cent.

Fur-bearing Animals on Fur Farms at the end of the year.- The total number of fur-bearing animals on the farms at the end of the year 1928, including estimates of the numbers of muskrat and beaver, was 258,373, with a total value of \$16,113,003. The number shows an increase over the preceding year of 130,353, or 102 per cent, and the value an increase of \$2,494,745, or 18 per cent. The large increase ^{are} in number may be credited chiefly to muskrat, although increases in number/ shown for nearly all kinds of fur bearers. Silver fox increased from 57,961 in 1927 to 71,329 in 1928; mink from 2,615 to 5,028, and raccoon from 1,238 to 1,852. The recent rise in the price of badger pelts has led to experiments in badger farming, and the records for 1928 show 113 badger on fur farms at the end of the year. There were four badger farms in operation in that year, three of these being located in Saskatchewan and one in Alberta.

Badger is also being raised on a few of the fox farms. The value of silver foxes on farms at the end of the year¹⁹²⁸ was \$14,634,208, this total representing 91 per cent of the total value of all fur-bearing animals on the farms.

The following tables give summaries of the principal statistics of the industry for the years 1927 and 1928. There are a few fur farms for which returns for the year 1928 have not yet been received. These returns will be included in the final report of the industry, which may be expected therefore to show some increase over the present preliminary figures.

1. Number of Fur Farms, by Provinces, 1927 and 1928.

Province	1927				1928			
	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms	Muskrat and Beaver farms	Total fur Farms	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms	Muskrat and Beaver farms	Total fur Farms
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island	720	-	-	720	759	1	-	760
Nova Scotia	313	20	26	359	338	21	13	372
New Brunswick	296	-	-	296	483	1	-	484
Quebec	738	51	5	794	893	82	14	989
Ontario	573	118	57	748	648	161	72	881
Manitoba	72	24	9	105	101	50	19	170
Saskatchewan	44	15	15	74	66	27	19	112
Alberta	127	7	3	137	190	18	20	228
British Columbia	171	77	70	318	185	103	70	358
Yukon Territory	13	1	-	14	13	4	-	17
Total	3,067	313	185	3,565	3,676	468	227	4,371

2. Number of Fur Farms, by Kind, Canada, 1927 and 1928.

Kind	1927	1928
	No.	No.
Fox Farms	3,067	3,676
Mink Farms	163	268
Raccoon Farms	111	157
Skunk Farms	3	3
Marten Farms	9	9
Fisher Farms	5	7
Badger Farms	-	4
Coyote Farms	2	3
Lynx Farms	-	1
Chinchilla Rabbit Farms	15	10
Rabbit Farms, n.e.s.	3	5
Karakul Sheep Farms	2	1
Muskrat Farms	172	216
Beaver Farms	13	11
Total Fur Farms	3,565	4,371

3. Value of Property, by Provinces, 1927 and 1928.

Province		Value of land and buildings	Value of fur-bearing animals	Total Value of Property
Prince Edward Island	1927	\$ 1,166,369	\$ 3,511,920	\$ 4,678,289
	1928	1,218,714	3,505,179	4,723,893
Nova Scotia	1927	217,433	758,582	976,015
	1928	249,025	839,365	1,088,390
New Brunswick	1927	300,850	1,174,025	1,474,875
	1928	474,667	1,576,811	2,051,478
Quebec	1927	796,161	2,306,781	3,102,945
	1928	1,106,033	3,236,466	4,342,499
Ontario	1927	1,019,438	2,663,373	3,682,811
	1928	1,460,618	3,129,936	4,590,554
Manitoba	1927	384,823	833,600	1,218,423
	1928	486,505	967,550	1,454,055
Saskatchewan	1927	214,814	522,126	736,940
	1928	420,762	644,799	1,065,561
Alberta	1927	328,999	869,952	1,198,951
	1928	463,745	1,180,462	1,644,207
British Columbia	1927	752,315	916,719	1,669,034
	1928	576,269	959,870	1,536,139
Yukon Territory	1927	38,850	62,180	101,030
	1928	44,550	72,565	117,115
Total	1927	5,220,055	13,619,258	18,839,313
	1928	6,500,888	16,113,003	22,613,891

4. Number of Fur-bearing Animals Born on Fur Farms, Number which Died and Number Killed for Pelts, Canada, 1927 and 1928.

Kind	1927			1928		
	Born	Died	Killed for pelts	Born	Died	Killed for pelts
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Silver Fox	46,040	10,084	20,890	57,953	10,909	23,837
Patch or Cross Fox	1,429	355	892	1,398	357	709
Red Fox	1,066	239	1,068	1,189	255	880
Blue Fox	1,313	410	235	1,224	685	344
Silver Blue Fox	-	-	-	11	9	-
Mink	1,995	414	223	3,822	625	389
Raccoon	515	124	145	952	239	161
Skunk	55	18	9	99	93	10
Marten	5	10	6	11	17	1
Fisher	13	10	-	23	14	2
Badger	-	-	-	2	1	-
Lynx	-	-	-	-	1	-
Coyote	5	2	-	4	1	3
Siberian Hare	25	9	-	-	-	-
Chinchilla Rabbit	3,851	1,174	1,288	4,606	1,319	538
Rabbit, n. e. s.	1,899	314	711	2,491	1,186	455
Karakul Sheep	638	74	91	49	9	16
Muskrat	24,135	1,242	4,238	94,359	1,477	5,263
Beaver	177	1	4	261	26	1
Total	83,161	14,480	29,800	168,454	17,223	32,609

† Numbers born and died estimated by fur farmers.

5. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals sold from Farms, Canada, 1927 and 1928.

Kind	1927		1928	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
		\$		\$
Silver Fox	12,804	2,501,816	17,163	3,475,824
Patch or Cross Fox	359	23,350	430	38,775
Red Fox	236	5,079	432	12,159
Blue Fox	166	28,115	200	28,530
Silver Blue Fox	-	-	2	550
Mink	1,017	58,992	2,148	140,889
Raccoon	344	7,626	653	18,031
Skunk	13	190	-	-
Marten	7	700	7	350
Fisher	6	635	17	2,375
Badger	-	-	3	215
Coyote	1	6	-	-
Siberian Hare	13	58	-	-
Chinchilla Rabbit	1,028	11,860	1,358	18,355
Rabbit, n.e.s.	370	2,689	892	7,861
Karakul Sheep	62	4,215	2	150
Muskrat	951	6,719	2,647	16,206
Beaver	1	100	4	200
Total	17,378	2,652,150	25,958	3,760,470

6. Number and Value of Pelts Sold from Fur Farms, Canada, 1927 and 1928.

Kind	1927		1928	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
		\$		\$
Silver Fox	21,128	2,067,170	21,173	2,235,555
Patch or Cross Fox	858	49,125	722	53,972
Red Fox	1,106	21,257	903	21,774
Blue Fox	182	8,053	201	13,516
Mink	297	4,546	423	8,916
Raccoon	168	1,193	172	1,502
Skunk	15	30	11	23
Marten	6	173	1	30
Fisher	2	60	2	112
Badger	-	-	1	28
Lynx	-	-	1	45
Coyote	5	60	-	-
Chinchilla Rabbit	1,090	1,701	376	526
Rabbit, n.e.s.	71	182	260	246
Karakul Sheep	80	800	-	-
Muskrat	5,240	8,564	6,188	9,365
Beaver	4	100	1	25
Total	30,262	2,163,014	30,435	2,345,635

7. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals on Fur Farms at date of December 31, 1927 and 1928.

Kind	1927		1928	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Silver Fox	57,961	\$ 12,824,787	71,329	\$ 14,634,208
Patch or Cross Fox	1,747	122,400	1,846	166,942
Red Fox	1,198	28,460	1,489	46,770
White Fox	-	-	1	150
Blue Fox	1,713	221,750	1,331	172,682
Silver Blue Fox	-	-	6	1,520
Mink	2,615	148,005	5,028	328,998
Raccoon	1,238	41,093	1,852	59,672
Skunk	111	1,100	99	693
Marten	118	10,510	152	14,310
Fisher	87	12,610	136	24,325
Otter	-	-	1	70
Badger	-	-	113	4,445
Lynx	2	100	9	880
Coyote	29	490	30	480
Siberian Hare	16	80	-	-
Chinchilla Rabbit	3,035	23,648	3,464	27,711
Rabbit, n. e. s.	1,129	9,280	1,733	12,575
Karakul Sheep	1,032	21,539	94	5,348
Muskrat †	55,390	127,921	168,861	562,749
Beaver †	505	24,455	799	48,475
Total	128,020	13,618,258	258,373	16,113,003

† Based on estimates furnished by fur farmers.

8. Total Amount Received by Fur Farms from the sale of Fur-bearing Animals and Pelts, by Provinces, 1927 and 1928.

		Fur-bearing	Pelts	Total
		Animals		Amount
Prince Edward Island	1927	\$ 938,527	\$ 832,053	\$ 1,770,580
	1928	898,318	742,922	1,641,240
Nova Scotia	1927	117,750	178,423	296,173
	1928	164,315	203,263	367,478
New Brunswick	1927	331,480	245,077	576,557
	1928	535,825	357,430	893,255
Quebec	1927	532,533	224,140	756,673
	1928	1,266,895	239,602	1,506,497
Ontario	1927	286,872	290,419	577,291
	1928	426,997	320,589	747,586
Manitoba	1927	221,931	145,536	367,517
	1928	186,563	148,836	335,399
Saskatchewan	1927	39,275	49,384	88,659
	1928	48,099	59,350	107,449
Alberta	1927	90,367	125,576	216,443
	1928	118,674	169,782	288,456
British Columbia	1927	89,290	54,668	143,958
	1928	108,284	86,522	194,806
Yukon Territory	1927	3,575	17,738	21,313
	1928	6,500	17,439	23,939
Total	1927	2,652,150	2,163,014	4,815,164
	1928	3,760,470	2,345,635	6,106,105

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