

## NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

of fur-farming companies. In April, 1917, Prince Edward Island breeding foxes could be purchased at the following prices:

Silver black foxes.	\$1,500 per pair.
Black foxes.	1,800 " "
Grey and brown foxes, about. . .	600 " "

Very few silver fox pelts have been sold in Prince Edward Island in recent years owing to the great demand for breeding stock, but it is generally agreed that, as the silver foxes on the ranches are rapidly increasing, the industry will come down to a pelt basis in a few years. The calculation has been made that if the prices should keep up long enough to enable the farmers to get back the money they have invested in fox breeding they could afterward make good profits raising silver foxes for pelts if the price of pelts should fall as low as sixty dollars.

Mr J. Walter Jones, who was selected by the Canadian Commission of Conservation to make a special study of Prince Edward Island fur farming, said, in reference to the price of fox pelts in 1914:

The average price of wild silver fox skins in London is about \$200, and for ranch foxes such as are found with the best ranchers \$1,200. Wild silver fox skins are not always prime, and they are frequently shot, chewed, mangled and poorly dressed, while ranch foxes are usually killed when their fur is in prime condition. The highest price ever paid at the London sales for a silver fox skin was \$2,900. It is said that this skin was sold by a Paris firm which had bought it at a previous sale for \$1,950, and that it was from a ranch fox from Prince Edward Island. The next highest price was \$2,700, and half a dozen have sold for \$2,500 or more, all being from Prince Edward Island ranches. A remarkable sale was made in March, 1912, when a pelt from a fox that died in James Rayner's ranch at Kildare, Prince Edward Island, on October 12, 1911, brought the highest price, \$2,050, although the skin would not have been fully prime before December.

Prince Edward Island fur breeders claim that the climate of the island is more favourable to foxes than any other known locality, and they point to the price realized by Prince Edward Island skins at the London auction sales as proof of their contention.

Prince Edward Island's example is being followed in other provinces of the Dominion.

## FISHERIES OF CANADA.

Nature has endowed Canada with most extensive fisheries. The long coast line and the numerous bays, inlets and harbours on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the gulf of St. Lawrence, the bay of Fundy, Hudson bay and the Pacific ocean, as well as the great rivers and multitudinous lakes, both large and small, in the interior of the country have already been referred to. The coast line on the Arctic ocean need not be considered, as it is uncertain to what extent its waters can be utilized by fishermen, although there is a possibility that important sea fisheries may eventually develop directly north of the mouth of the Mackenzie, a part of the Arctic which is even now frequented by whaling vessels coming from Behring sea.

The temperature of Canadian waters is favourable to the production of fish of fine flavour and good keeping qualities, while the extraordinary number of inlets, bays and harbours along the coasts not only