

industry<sup>1</sup>. The Prince Edward Island Silver Fox Breeders' Association was formed in 1915, and the Canadian Silver Fox Breeders' Association in 1920. Fox farming is now carried on in all provinces of the Dominion and the number of farms is steadily increasing.

Although the fox has proved the most suited to domestication, other kinds of fur-bearing wild animals are being raised in captivity—mink, raccoon, skunk, marten, fisher, beaver and muskrat. Karakul sheep, from which are obtained the furs known as "persian lamb", "astrachan" and "broadtail", are also being raised successfully in Canada. Raccoon farms are the most numerous of the miscellaneous class, mink farms coming next. A few of the fox farms also raise miscellaneous fur-bearing animals in addition to the foxes.

**Fur Farms of Canada, 1923.**—The term "fur farm" includes farms devoted entirely to the raising of fur-bearing animals, together with parts of farms where the raising of fur-bearing animals is carried on as a distinct branch of the operations. Of such farms there were 1,240 in Canada in 1923, comprising 1,179 fox farms and 61 farms raising fur-bearing animals other than foxes. Chief in number among the latter are raccoon farms numbering 22, mink farms numbering 12 and muskrat farms numbering 10. Compared with 1922, the fox farms show an increase of 202 and the miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms an increase of 12. Farms for the raising of Chinchilla rabbits, of Siberian hares and of coyotes and prairie wolves are recorded in 1923 for the first time. Increases in the number of fur farms are shown by all the provinces, except Saskatchewan, but the largest proportionate increases are in Ontario and Alberta, where the numbers of farms have almost doubled. The total value of the fur farms in 1923 was, as shown in Table 24, \$8,424,964, comprising \$2,099,246, the value of land and buildings, and \$6,325,718, the value of the fur-bearing animals. Compared with 1922, an increase of \$173,295 is shown in the value of land and buildings, and an increase of \$461,565 in the value of the fur-bearing animals, a total increase in the value of property of \$634,860. Table 25 shows the number and value of fur-bearing animals on fur farms in Canada for the three years 1921-23, and Table 26 the number and value of fur-bearing animals sold and of pelts sold for the years 1922 and 1923. The former table shows that the number of fur-bearing animals on fur farms increased from 30,782 in 1922 to 40,125 in 1923, and that their value increased from \$5,864,153 to \$6,325,718.

Fur-bearing animals sold from fur farms during 1923 numbered 7,106, of the value of \$1,314,683, as compared with 4,339, value \$938,918, in 1922, silver foxes comprising 6,084, value \$1,286,375, in 1923, as against 3,794, value \$910,590, in 1922. The total number of pelts sold from fur farms in 1923 was 9,539, of the value of \$860,468, as compared with 6,024, value \$598,607, in 1922. Of silver foxes the number of pelts sold was 7,894, value \$819,429, as compared with 4,895, value \$573,806, in 1922. The average value for silver fox pelts was \$103.80 in 1923, as against \$117.30 in 1922.

Altogether the revenue derived from the sale of live foxes and of pelts totalled \$2,159,898 in 1923, as compared with \$1,526,822 in 1922. Silver foxes and pelts amounted in value to \$2,105,804 in 1923, and \$1,484,396 in 1922.

For further particulars the reader is referred to the report on Fur Farms, 1923, which may be obtained from the Dominion Statistician, Ottawa.

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<sup>1</sup> Fur Farming in Canada. By J. Walter Jones, B.A., B.S.A., Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, second edition revised and enlarged, 1914.