

dairying, tobacco, sheep, etc., while the Niagara peninsula in Ontario has long been famous for its fruit crops of both large and small varieties. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the production of grains is still of primary importance but is giving way to more diversified types of agriculture, while the stock raising industry, once so typical of the prairies, is regaining much of its former importance. In British Columbia the fertile valleys are devoted principally to apple and other fruit crops, and numerous districts along the coast and on Vancouver island are given over to general farming and market gardening.

Of the larger areas of land still available for settlement, the clay belt of northern Ontario and Quebec, in which splendid crops are grown, is to a large extent undeveloped, and even larger areas in northern Saskatchewan and Alberta await cultivation.

Furs.—Canada is one of the world's greatest fur producers. As early as 1676 Canadian furs sold in England were valued at £19,500. Since that time great areas of northern territory have been explored by hunter and trapper. The larger companies engaged in the business, notably the Hudson's Bay Co. and Revillon Frères, maintain extensive systems of trading posts where trappers call at intervals to dispose of their pelts and procure supplies. The large uninhabited areas of northern Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories furnish subsistence for many of the most highly prized fur-bearing animals, among the most important of which are the beaver, fisher, various varieties of foxes, marten and others. The animals are usually caught in traps during the winter months, when the country is more accessible than during the summer and the pelts are in the best condition. The successful breeding of the fox on fur farms came with the period of rising prices after 1890, and has since developed into an important industry. Prince Edward Island has always been the centre of the industry but farms are now found in all provinces of the Dominion. On Dec. 31, 1924, 1,466 fox farms were in operation, with a total of 33,739 foxes, principally of the "silver" variety.

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, lynx, coyote, rabbit, marten and fisher. Karakul sheep, from which are obtained the furs known as "Persian lamb," "astrachan" and "broadtail," are also being raised successfully in Canada. In 1924 the number of farms engaged in the raising of fur-bearing animals other than foxes was 84. 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.

During the year 1923-24 the value of pelts taken in Canada amounted to \$15,643,817. Pelts sold from fur farms in the calendar year 1924 were valued at \$661,081 and animals sold at \$2,549,180.

Forests.—Among the most notable of all Canadian natural resources are those of the forests. From the days when early French settlers established ship-building yards along the St. Lawrence up to the present, when our forests supply millions of tons of pulp, paper, and other wood products yearly, these resources have been of immense value, not only to Canada but to the Empire. Canada's forest areas may be stated as follows:—(1) the great coniferous forest of the Rocky mountains and Pacific coast, (2) the northern forest, stretching in a wide curve from the Yukon north of the Great Lakes to Labrador, and (3) the forest extending from lake Huron through southern Ontario and Quebec to New Brunswick and the Atlantic coast. Estimates have placed the extent of timber lands in the Dominion at 1,227,000 square miles, some of which is agricultural land. About 475,000 square miles are