

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, 1926, 2,517 fox farms were in operation with a total of 51,359 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 1926 the number of farms engaged in the raising of fur-bearing animals other than foxes was 185. Mink farms are the most numerous of the miscellaneous class, raccoon farms coming next. A few of the fox farms also raise miscellaneous fur-bearing animals in addition to the foxes.

During the year 1925-26 the value of pelts taken in Canada amounted to \$15,072,244. Pelts sold from fur farms in the calendar year 1926 were valued at \$1,218,111 and animals sold at \$2,276,664.

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 1,116,720 square miles, some of which is agricultural land. About 381,000 square miles are covered with saw timber of commercial size. With regard to quantity of timber, it has also been estimated that the stand of timber of merchantable size in 1926 comprised 459,000,000,000 feet board measure of saw timber and 1,215,000,000 cords of pulpwood, etc., the stands in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia making up over 43 p.c. of the total, which amounted to some 234,000,000,000 cubic feet. These figures place Canada next to the United States among the countries of the world with respect to forests, and while, during recent years, the annual cuts have generally exceeded new growth and considerable losses have been caused by fire and other destructive agencies, the extent of the uncut forests and the measures taken to preserve them and induce the development of new growth by reforestation assure an adequate supply for many years to come.

A classification of Canada's forest areas is given in Table 7. Total forest land is divided into the areas at present carrying merchantable timber and other areas unsuited for present exploitation. It may be pointed out, however, that these latter will presumably, in part at least, develop into productive areas, since the totals of forest lands, given below, are those of land which is on the whole better suited for forest production than for any other purpose, although they include about 100,000 square miles of potential agricultural land at present covered with forest.