

The Maritime Provinces are noted for their fruit and vegetable crops, perhaps particularly for the oat and potato crops of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick and the apples of the Annapolis valley in Nova Scotia. Quebec and Ontario are pre-eminently mixed farming communities, various districts specializing in 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 £19,000. 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, 1927, 3,067 fox farms were in operation with a total of 62,619 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 1927 the number of farms engaged in the raising of fur-bearing animals other than foxes was 313. 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.

The total value of the raw fur production of Canada for the season 1927-28 was \$18,758,177. This total comprises the value of pelts of fur-bearing animals taken by trappers and of those raised on fur farms. Pelts sold from fur farms in the calendar year 1927 were valued at \$2,154,350 and animals sold at \$2,645,331.

Forests.—Among the most valuable of all Canada's natural resources exploited up to the present time have been those of her forests. From the days when masts and spars were exported for use in the French navy and early French settlers established shipbuilding yards along the St. Lawrence up to the present, when our forests supply billions of board feet of lumber and timber and millions of tons of pulp,