

Furs.—Although the rapid advance of settlement has greatly restricted the reservoir of fur-bearing animal life cradled in the vast expanses of northern Canada, yet Canada, after three and a half centuries of exploitation, still holds a foremost place in the ranks of the world's fur producing countries.

Raw furs are at present the only economic return from hundreds of thousands of square miles of the area of the Dominion and are a resource to which all the provinces and territories contribute.

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 fox, 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, 1928, 3,631 fox farms were in operation with a total of 77,311 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 1928 the number of farms engaged in the raising of fur-bearing animals other than foxes was 695. Mink farms are the most numerous of the miscellaneous class, muskrat farms coming second and raccoon third. Over 260 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 1928 were valued at \$2,389,026 and animals sold at \$3,837,420.

Fisheries.—The first of Canada's resources to be exploited by Europeans was the fishing banks of the Atlantic coast. It is believed that for many years before the actual discovery and settlement of North America the cod banks south of Newfoundland and east of Nova Scotia had attracted French fishermen by their abundance of fish. These fishing grounds alone extend along a coast line of more than 5,000 miles, comprising an area of not less than 200,000 square miles, and are in the course of the cold Arctic current, a fact which tends greatly to improve the quality of the fish. The most important fishes of the off-shore fisheries are the cod, halibut, haddock, herring and mackerel, while the inshore and inland fisheries number the lobster, oyster, salmon, gaspereau, smelt, trout and maskinonge among their catches. Other fishing grounds include the inshore expanses of the St. Lawrence river; the Great Lakes, where whitefish and herring form perhaps the most valued catches, and innumerable other inland water areas abounding with trout, pike, bass and other game fish; and the Pacific coast. The fisheries of British Columbia, with its coast line of 7,000 miles, have in recent years shown a rapid development, and the products of the estuarian salmon fish-