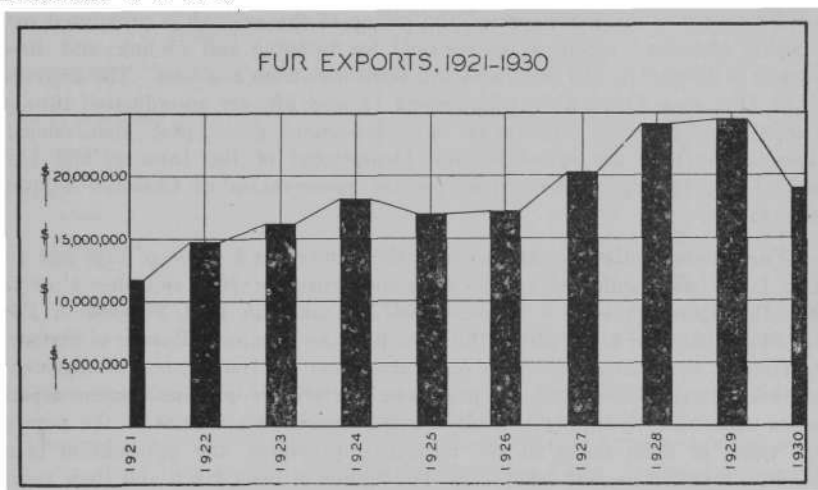


In 1929 the number of fur skins treated in Canadian plants was 7,633,909, compared with 7,974,020 in 1928. The plants in operation numbered 10 in 1929, 12 in 1928 and 11 in 1927.



Improved methods of capture, together with the advance of lumbering, mining and agricultural settlement, have driven fur-bearing animals farther and farther afield. Close seasons have been declared for Russian sable, Bolivian chinchilla and Canadian beaver, but even this has been insufficient, as is shown by the continued decrease of the numbers of the animals. The fur trade has taken other methods to supply the demand by re-naming common and despised furs and by encouraging the use of the furs of domestic animals. About 40 years ago, Persian lamb, astrachan and broadtail, the product of the Karakul sheep, came into general use. A few of these sheep were imported into Canada some years ago, but the Canadian industry has not progressed as a source of supply for pelts. Of fur-bearing wild animals the fox has proved the best suited to domestication. The successful breeding of the fox on fur farms came in the period of rising prices after 1890, with the introduction of woven wire fencing. Other animals have been domesticated, though less successfully than the fox—raccoon, mink, marten, skunk, muskrat and beaver. For a review of the fur farming industry of Canada, see pp. 235 to 238 of this volume.

Conservation.—The conservation of the wild life of Canada has been made a special object of government policy through the organization, in 1916, of the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection, to co-ordinate the efforts of various Departments and Branches of the Dominion Government in matters relating to the conservation of the wild-life resources of Canada. The Northwest Game Act and the Migratory Birds Convention Act are the most important subjects to which the attention of the Board is specially directed and upon which it makes recommendations. In addition, the Board investigates and studies all problems relating to the protection and better utilization of all fur-bearing animals, "big game" mammals and to bird life, whether game birds, insectivorous birds or others. The Board serves entirely without remuneration and during the whole period of its existence has incurred no expenditure.