

original home, was given in the Census and Statistics Monthly for May, 1914, at p. 110, while a still more detailed account of the earlier history of the industry was given in a publication of the Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, entitled "Fur Farming in Canada", by J. Walter Jones, B.A., B.S.A., the second edition of which was published in 1914.

Fur Farms of Canada.—The term "fur farm" includes farms devoted entirely to the raising of fur-bearing animals (principally silver foxes), together with parts of farms where the raising of fur-bearing animals is carried on as a distinct branch of the operations. Such farms increased in numbers from 429 in 1919 to 6,369 in 1931, or, if muskrat and beaver farms are included, to 6,541, and the industry is still growing in number of farms and varieties of fur-bearing animals on these farms, although its revenue has suffered from the effects of the low level to which prices for live animals and pelts of all kinds dropped in 1931. 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, marten, fisher and rabbit. Mink farms are now the most numerous of the miscellaneous class, raccoon farms coming second and muskrat third. A few of the fox farms also raise miscellaneous fur-bearing animals in addition to the foxes.

Capital Investment.—The earliest Dominion-wide statistics of fur farms were collected for the year 1919, and since then annual statistics have been obtained. Statistics showing the increasing numbers and values of fur-bearing animals on fur farms are given in Tables 20 and 21, the former showing an increase of 524 p.c. since 1923, and the latter an increase of 34 p.c. from \$6,325,718 to \$8,497,237. The capital investment in lands and buildings in 1931 was \$7,095,111, making a grand total investment of \$15,592,348 in the industry in that year.

20.—Numbers of Fur-bearing Animals on Fur Farms in Canada at Dec. 31, 1923-31.

Kind of Animal.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Silver fox.....	25,186	31,204	42,125	47,657	57,961	72,631	97,190	105,894	95,734
Patch or cross fox.....	1,556	1,596	1,736	1,742	1,747	1,853	2,563	3,335	3,368
Red fox.....	627	720	1,196	1,163	1,198	1,489	2,348	3,018	2,879
Blue fox.....	12	216	735	1,050	1,713	1,331	1,576	1,785	1,219
Silver-blue fox.....	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	12
White fox.....	2	3	—	—	—	1	4	64	65
Mink.....	489	663	982	1,650	2,615	5,028	10,436	20,726	21,062
Raccoon.....	159	245	445	689	1,238	1,852	2,870	3,395	3,600
Skunk.....	92	138	129	88	111	99	78	20	54
Marten.....	11	13	35	69	112	152	187	228	272
Fisher.....	8	9	15	46	87	136	184	195	244
Opossum.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Coyote.....	9	22	59	4	29	36	73	135	72
Badger.....	—	—	3	—	—	113	726	559	307
Lynx.....	2	4	3	3	2	9	10	13	16
Otter.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Fitch.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	150	826
Ferret.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—
Weasel.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	6	11
Nutria.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	27
Siberian hare.....	24	25	35	39	16	—	—	—	—
Chinchilla rabbit.....	222	351	1,215	1,843	3,085	3,464	1,438	1,206	239
Rabbit, n.e.s.....	—	353	967	252	1,129	1,733	428	473	207
Karakul sheep.....	883	1,545	1,209	177	1,082	94	96	193	140
Muskrat ¹	10,820	1	28,106	35,838	55,390	168,861	711,111	425,523	119,285
Beaver ²	23	1	155	360	506	799	698	1,112	806
Totals.....	40,125	37,162	79,149	92,670	123,921	253,632	832,853	568,018	250,446

¹Statistics not available.

²Based on estimates furnished by the operators of the farms.