

Forest products have always formed a large part of the raw material used in all kinds of industrial activity. At the present time products of forest origin form a quarter of our total exports, being exceeded only by the products of the farm.

Because of our climate, coniferous trees form over 80 p.c. of our forest resources and over 95 p.c. of our forest products as at present exploited. Because of their universal use in industry, the softwoods are in greatest demand, not only in Canada but in the markets of the world. Canada enjoys the distinction of holding the Empire's reserve of softwood timber, being rivalled in her coniferous forests only by Asiatic Russia and the United States. The Canadian species of both hardwoods and softwoods yield lumber and timber of dimensions and quality that are equal or superior to those produced by forests elsewhere.

Statistics of forest production (operations in the woods) in 1933 place its total value at \$93,773,142, with a corresponding equivalent in standing timber of 2,027,713,767 cubic feet. The most important items are logs for sawing, valued at \$23,158,381, firewood valued at \$33,213,973, and pulpwood for use and export, valued at \$31,141,104. The total value of sawmill products in 1933 was \$39,438,057 and that of pulp and paper-mill products \$123,415,492.

Furs.—Although the advance of settlement has restricted the fur-bearing animal life 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 an important product in all the provinces and territories.

The large uninhabited areas of northern Quebec, Ontario and Western Canada furnish subsistence for many of the most highly prized fur-bearing animals, among the most important of which are various varieties of fox, muskrat, mink, beaver 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 was formerly the centre of the industry, but farms are now found in all provinces of the Dominion. On Dec. 31, 1933, 5,507 fox farms were in operation with a total of 118,641 foxes, principally of the "silver" variety. Many of the fox farms also raise miscellaneous fur-bearing animals in addition to the foxes.

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, coyote, marten and fisher. The mink, in particular, is easily domesticated, and thrives in captivity if care is exercised in the selection of environment and proper attention is given to its requirements in the matter of diet. In 1933 the number of farms engaged in the raising of fur-bearing animals other than foxes was 966. Mink farms are the most numerous of the miscellaneous class, raccoon farms coming second, muskrat third and fitch fourth. The number of fitch farms has increased from 17 in 1932 to 43 in 1933.

The total value of the raw fur production of Canada for the season 1933-34 was \$12,349,328. 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 1933 were valued at \$3,627,570, and animals sold at \$330,652. In earlier years sales of live animals rather than of pelts provided the principal source of revenue to the fur farmers.