

increasing at a rapid rate. In addition to the farms already mentioned, where animals are raised in rather confined quarters, many areas of marsh, stream or lake are being operated as muskrat and beaver farms. In the case of these semi-aquatic animals, however, although the animals are usually kept within a carefully fenced area where they are given supplementary food and are protected from predatory enemies, they nevertheless live and breed under natural conditions.

For many years the fox-farming industry was expanding so rapidly, both in Canada and abroad, that the chief source of income of ranches was the sale of live animals for breeding purposes, while the production of pelts was a minor or incidental feature. Thus, in 1925 the value of live silver foxes sold was \$2,755,000, while that of silver fox pelts was only \$736,000. As the number of foxes on fur farms progressively increased, ranchers had to readjust their economy to declining values for both live animals and pelts. The industry appears to be gradually becoming stabilized on a pelt basis rather than on a live animal basis. In the latest year, 1935, the value of live silver foxes sold was only \$562,480, while that of silver fox pelts sold was \$3,690,431, and for all fur farms the sales of pelts represented 88 p.c. of the total revenue.

**Statistics of Fur Farms.**—The earliest Dominion-wide statistics of fur farms were collected for the year 1919. Since then annual statistics have been obtained covering the chief phases of the industry. The statistics of 1919 recorded 429 fur farms with 8,326 fur-bearing animals. The wide growth of the industry since then is evident from the statistics of the tables which follow.

Table 1, showing the number of farms and capital investment in the industry by provinces, indicates that Prince Edward Island no longer holds its earlier margin of supremacy in the industry. In recent years the larger and more populous provinces of Quebec and Ontario have exceeded Prince Edward Island in the number of fur farms, and in the capital invested in fur-bearing animals and land and buildings used for fur farming.

**1.—Numbers of Fur Farms, Values of Land and Buildings and Values of Fur-Bearing Animals, by Provinces, 1933-35.**

Province.	Fur Farms.			Values of Land and Buildings.			Values of Fur-Bearing Animals.		
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
P.E. Island.....	609	646	771	901,201	879,083	884,895	1,052,172	1,168,683	1,192,410
Nova Scotia.....	659	690	853	239,671	254,739	314,687	408,045	431,098	557,447
New Brunswick....	756	991	983	410,484	563,009	508,221	668,192	941,746	949,101
Quebec.....	2,147	2,279	2,408	1,059,734	1,035,942	1,173,107	1,517,668	1,627,874	1,910,659
Ontario.....	1,044	1,026	1,029	1,224,942	1,215,022	1,321,913	1,464,181	1,606,592	1,848,343
Manitoba.....	280	352	400	522,505	592,400	700,403	649,331	760,546	913,072
Saskatchewan.....	200	225	308	659,467	404,707	413,752	441,896	490,828	545,552
Alberta.....	448	510	463	788,309	852,449	905,913	963,480	1,077,110	1,085,050
British Columbia...	323	293	272	444,338	397,887	356,184	336,237	314,725	373,916
Yukon.....	7	7	8	14,550	14,550	11,750	8,365	8,365	6,275
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>6,473</b>	<b>7,019</b>	<b>7,495</b>	<b>6,265,201</b>	<b>6,209,788</b>	<b>6,590,825</b>	<b>7,509,567</b>	<b>8,427,567</b>	<b>9,381,825</b>

Table 2 indicates that the numbers of silver foxes and mink, the two fur-bearing animals which have proved most readily adaptable to domestication, were higher in 1935 than in any previous year. The values of animals on fur farms, on the other hand, have been greatly affected by the decline in prices since 1929.