

In 1920 the first fur auctions in Canada were held at Montreal. Naturally, most Canadian pelts found their way to these auctions and many of the pelts offered were purchased for European accounts, few being absorbed locally.

In more recent years the Canadian market has accounted for increasing quantities but the chief outlet, up to the outbreak of war in 1939, was through the London market.

In the 1920-21 season the number of silver- and black-fox pelts produced in Canada was approximately 5,000 and in the season 1938-39 approximately 320,000 pelts were produced. The following shows the increase in the number of pelts, by provinces:—

Province	Pelts <sup>1</sup>	
	1920-21	1938-39
	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	2,982	70,420
Nova Scotia.....	517	29,616
Quebec.....	348	55,203
Alberta.....	200	26,142
Saskatchewan.....	172	17,703
New Brunswick.....	166	60,020
Ontario.....	148	38,234
Manitoba.....	127	18,734
British Columbia.....	123	3,328
Yukon.....	137	78
Northwest Territories.....	59	215
<b>CANADA.....</b>	<b>4,979</b>	<b>319,693</b>

<sup>1</sup> Included in these figures are the wild-caught silver- and black-fox pelts, which numbered approximately 150 to 200 per season.

The changes in the demand for different kinds of fox pelts have increased the difficulties of the ranchers, who are naturally anxious to produce pelts that bring the highest prices. Black fox was popular thirty years ago; a few years later the highest prices were being paid for quarter and half silvers; during recent years the full silver and new types have been setting the upper price limit, because they are in demand for working into short and long capes, short coats, collars and wide trimmings on fur and cloth coats.

In 1922 United States breeders felt they had sufficient breeding stock for foundation purposes and consequently, in that year, the United States Government imposed a duty of 50 p.c. on silver- and black-fox pelts (later changed to 35 p.c.) and 15 p.c. on live foxes entering that country. Immediately United States breeders started to develop a distinctive type of silver fox, a large, heavily furred, wide-barred, pale-silver fox, quite unlike the more desirable Canadian types. After they had produced these in considerable numbers they organized a live-stock selling campaign as a result of which hundreds of ranches stocked with this type sprang up in the United States.

Coincident with the placing of the tariff, the silver-fox business began to boom in the United States: pelt prices and live-stock prices increased, and the business flourished. As a result, shipments of Canadian pelts formerly made to the United States market were diverted to London. This outlet, and the continued sale of live stock throughout Canada, relieved what at first appeared to be a grave situation; it was found that the United States market was not essential to Canadian breeders. Actually, at that time, the Canadian silver-fox industry had its greatest period of