

\$9,982,000 and ten years later it was \$11,523,000. During the War years 1939-45, prices rose rapidly with the result that the 1944-45 value amounted to \$21,390,000, (\$31,001,456 less \$8,611,456, the contribution of fur farms), almost the same as in 1919-20. Muskrat contributed the greatest part of this amount, about \$6,300,000.

In spite of the growth of fur farming, wild life still produces the greater portion of Canadian furs. Over an area of about 1,550,000 square miles, which is about 45 p.c. of the total land area of Canada, wild life, though a subordinate resource, is relatively more productive than agriculture, and of the products of wild life, furs are the principal item and the principal support of the population in that area.

Wars have always been disruptive to the normal flow of trade and during each of the two wars of the present century the Canadian fur trade suffered severely from severance of contact with London, England, which was the world's leading fur-trading centre. Prior to the War of 1914-18 and during the inter-war period, Canada marketed her pelts mainly through London. Since that market was practically dormant during hostilities, Canada was obliged to develop other outlets in the United States and in the Latin American countries. To what extent these channels will grow or remain is not yet clear. In 1945, the United Kingdom took vigorous steps to revive and develop her world position in the fur trade and the degree to which the trade will revert to its former channels remains to be seen.

The first Canadian auction sale was held in Montreal, Que., in 1920 after the First World War and since then that city has been the leading Canadian fur mart. To-day auction sales are also held at Vancouver, B.C., Edmonton, Alta., Regina, Sask., and Winnipeg, Man., and at Regina the Saskatchewan Government maintains a Fur Marketing Service to assist the producers of that Province.

Section 2.—Fur Farming*

In the early days of the fur trade, it was the practice in Canada for trappers to keep foxes alive until the fur was prime, and from this custom has arisen the modern fur-farming industry. The earliest authentic record of raising foxes in captivity comes from Prince Edward Island, where about 65 years ago a number of foxes were raised on a farm near Tignish. After 1890, a period of rising prices for furs encouraged fox-farming and the industry grew rapidly. The beauty of the fur of the silver fox and the consequent high prices realized from the sale of the pelts, caused attention to be directed chiefly to this breed, which is a colour phase of the common red fox established through selective breeding carried on by the pioneer fox farmers. While experiments were being carried on in Prince Edward Island, attempts at raising foxes in captivity were also being made in other provinces; the records show that foxes were successfully bred in Quebec in 1898, in Ontario in 1905 and in Nova Scotia in 1906. Fur farming is now carried on in all provinces of the Dominion and the number of farms, until the outbreak of war in 1939, showed a steady increase. An experimental fox ranch is operated by the Dominion Government at Summerside, P.E.I., where problems of breeding, feeding, housing and general care are studied.

* Revised in the Agricultural Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.