

equipment, and by public education. Beaver dams also help to level off the effects of floods and drought, natural catastrophes that seriously affect fur-bearers and other wildlife. Beavers are, in fact, so useful as assistants to wildlife-management services that numbers of them are often transplanted, by air or otherwise, from areas where they are too numerous to areas where their activities will improve habitat for themselves and for other species.

The most important aspects of management of the fur-trapping industry are: constant practical scientific research, maintenance of suitable habitat and its improvement where possible, sound and balanced regulation of the harvest of fur-bearers, provision of competent and adequate field staffs, and free education of trappers with respect to the principles of wildlife management. By these means many areas depleted of fur-bearers have once again become productive. Such means will become increasingly important in maintaining Canada's position as a major producer of raw furs.

### Subsection 2.—Fur Farming

Although early developments in raising fur-bearing animals on farms took place first in Prince Edward Island around 1887 and in Quebec in 1898, fur farming to-day is carried on in all the provinces of Canada. Foxes were the first fur-bearers to be raised in captivity on a commercial scale but mink, chinchilla, raccoon, marten, fisher, fitch, nutria and others are now being reared. Mink are the most numerous, followed by the various types of foxes and these two far outnumber all other kinds of fur-bearing animals.

