licences at that date and their offspring and, as a consequence, most of the fur catch is now taken by Indian, metis and Eskimo trappers. In the northern areas, native trappers who formerly spent the winter months, along with their families, on the trapline now congregate with their dependants in settlements. While this community-type living has many advantages for the trapper's family, such as regular schooling, medical attention and the broader social life of the settlement, one of the undesirable results is that the areas around the settlements tend to be over-trapped and the less accessible areas neglected, with consequent waste of the fur resource.

In most areas of the country, the numbers of fur bearers are being well maintained. Conservation measures, including the establishment of natural preserves and the protection of scarce species, by limiting the catch or closing the season completely for a time, have been of major assistance in this connection. Also, in many fur-producing areas a registration system has been instituted under which trapping areas are assigned to individuals on a constant basis. Before the introduction of the registration system, competition between trappers in the same territory often resulted in exhaustion of the fur resource.

Fur Farming.—Mink is by far the most important species raised on farms; chinchilla, fox and nutria are also raised but these account for less than 1 p.c. of the total value of pelts produced. Mink farming is carried on in all the provinces, the principal producers, in order of importance, being Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba and Alberta. The following figures indicate the growth of the industry since 1930:—

Year	Pelt Production	Average Realization	Year	Pelt Production	Average Realization
	No.	$		No.	$
1930	3,284	10.52	1960	1,203,853	14.03
1935	30,558	10.58	1961	1,271,449	14.50
1940	229,202	9.64	1962	1,295,672	15.13
1945	255,968	21.51	1963	1,400,021	15.82
1950	589,352	17.08	1964	1,416,085	14.92
1955	786,760	20.07	1965	1,633,152	17.41

The bumper crop of mink pelts that reached the market in December 1965 met with a strong demand and the average price realized was 16.7 p.c. above the 1964 return. To produce these pelts, mink farmers used some 60,000,000 lb. of rough fish and fish frames and 40,000,000 lb. of meat and poultry by-products, in addition to commercial cereals, liver, whale meat and other feeds.

Mink farming has become a specialized business which bears no relation to the production of wild mink pelts by trappers. The successful breeder must have a thorough knowledge of his animals' habits and requirements as well as a sound understanding of the complex field of genetics. The present-day ranched mink has resulted from the crossing of various strains of North American wild mink but selective breeding, with a view to meeting market requirements, has produced a pelt which is far darker in colour than most of the pelts taken in the wilds. Also, colour mutations, which do not usually survive in the wilds, have been carefully developed by the mink farming industry. These mutations have proved to be of inestimable value to the industry, providing a wide range of attractive natural colours and assuring for mink a continuing dominant position on the world's fur market. The most recent mutation is the "Jet Black" mink, which occurred in 1960 on a farm in Nova Scotia. Although this colour phase is common in other animals it had not previously been noted in mink. A herd of the Jet Black mink has since been carefully built up and in 1965 it was possible to offer breeding animals for sale. A substantial number have been purchased by producers in Canada, the United States, the Scandinavian countries and elsewhere. Because of its dominant breeding properties, the Jet Black mink is considered to be one of the industry's most important mutations.

The production of chinchilla pelts increased sharply in 1965 when the quantity marketed was 33.5 p.c. above the 1964 output. The principal producing provinces, in