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Census of Industry
Fisheries, Furs and Dairy Statistics Branch

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ADVANCE REPORT ON THE FUR FARMS OF CANADA, 1937

The number of fur farms reported for the whole of Canada in 1937 was 9,179, an increase over the preceding year of 1,037. Following are the numbers of the various kinds of fur farms included in the total for 1937: fox farms, 7,602; mink, 1,425; raccoon, 83; muskrat, 25; fitch, 19; beaver, 11; marten, 5; nutria, 4; fisher, 3; and badger, 2 farms. All farms which raise foxes are classified as fox farms, but in the miscellaneous group, the classification is made according to the kind for which the largest number is recorded. For example, a farm with 10 marten and 4 fisher would be classified as a marten farm, but if the numbers were reversed, the farm would be counted with the fisher farms.

The Dominion Bureau has an arrangement for co-operation with the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, whereby the returns are collected by the provincial game departments and then forwarded to the Dominion Bureau for compilation. This arrangement avoids the necessity for duplicate inquiries to fur farmers. For the other provinces, excepting Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, the game departments furnish annual lists of licensed fur farmers, and these lists are used in the collection of returns by the Bureau. For Prince Edward Island the Bureau's list of fur farms, although inclusive of all the larger farms, is probably incomplete with regard to properties where not more than one or two pairs of foxes are kept. For New Brunswick, where, as in Prince Edward Island, licenses are not required, the Bureau's list is believed to be nearly complete.

The amount realized from the sale of live fur-bearing animals in 1937 was \$1,030,888, and from the sale of pelts, \$5,779,498, a total revenue for the industry of \$6,810,386, compared with \$6,539,210 in the preceding year. More animals and pelts were sold in 1937 than in 1936, but average prices were lower.

The number of fur bearing animals on the farms at the end of the year 1937 was 241,359, of which the silver fox population accounts for 153,822, or 64 per cent of the total, and the number of minks for 71,410, or 30 per cent. The chinchilla, a native of the Andes in South America, is recorded in the Canadian fur farming industry for the first time.

The following tables summarize the principal statistics of the industry for the years 1936 and 1937. The final report, to be issued at a later date, will contain statistics in greater detail and by county and district divisions. (a)

1. Number of Fur Farms, by Provinces, 1936 and 1937.

Province	1936			:	1937		
	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous Fur Farms	Total Fur Farms		Fox Farms	Miscellaneous Fur Farms	Total Fur Farms
	No.	No.	No.		No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island	729	1	730	:	1,215	1	1,216
Nova Scotia	883	75	958	:	868	134	1,002
New Brunswick	1,015	13	1,028	:	999	13	1,012
Quebec	2,419	151	2,570	:	2,390	151	2,541
Ontario	875	295	1,170	:	867	411	1,278
Manitoba	309	203	512	:	361	301	662
Saskatchewan	287	62	349	:	365	126	491
Alberta	386	128	514	:	391	196	587
British Columbia	149	155	304	:	142	238	380
Yukon	5	2	7	:	4	6	10
TOTAL	7,057	1,085	8,142		7,602	1,577	9,179

(a) Report on the Fur Farms of Canada, 1937. Price 25 cents.

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2. Value of Property, 1936 and 1937.

Province	1936			:	1937		
	Value of land and buildings	Value of fur-bearing animals	Total Value of property		Value of land and buildings	Value of fur-bearing animals	Total Value of property
	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island	876,446	1,088,647	1,965,093		878,934	945,542	1,824,476
Nova Scotia	337,422	608,202	945,624		319,305	510,769	830,074
New Brunswick	531,955	908,215	1,440,170		521,983	734,002	1,255,985
Quebec	1,226,657	1,910,811	3,137,468		1,348,655	1,797,806	3,146,461
Ontario	1,401,675	2,044,500	3,446,175		1,445,654	2,085,875	3,531,529
Manitoba	797,602	1,109,299	1,906,901		1,029,280	1,311,427	2,340,707
Saskatchewan	567,550	629,432	1,196,982		678,014	689,770	1,367,784
Alberta	972,632	1,164,714	2,137,346		1,047,408	1,186,450	2,233,858
British Columbia ...	367,747	362,635	730,382		400,788	402,646	803,434
Yukon	17,350	11,825	29,175		17,150	12,144	29,294
TOTAL	7,094,506	9,837,760	16,935,316		7,687,171	9,676,431	17,363,602

3. Number of Fur-bearing Animals Born on Fur Farms, 1936 and 1937. (a)

Kind	1936		:	1937		:	Kind		1936		1937	
	No.	No.		No.	No.		No.	No.				
Silver fox	221,905	238,936		Fitch	2,117		1,617					
Cross fox	2,835	3,085		Karakul sheep..	89		99					
Red fox	1,651	1,293		Marten	38		55					
Blue fox	1,046	1,140		Nutria	28		132					
Mink	65,892	106,999		Raccoon	771		650					
Badger	3	2		Skunk	-		7					
Coyote	52	35		Weasel	20		-					
Fisher	33	25										
				TOTAL	296,480		354,075					

(a) Exclusive of muskrat and beaver.

4. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals Sold from Fur Farms, 1936 and 1937.

Kind	1936		:	1937	
	Number	Value		Number	Value
		\$		\$	
Silver fox	9,976	542,888		9,670	517,782
Cross fox	125	3,321		121	3,437
Red fox	135	1,293		131	1,449
Blue fox	25	1,110		47	2,145
White fox	1	25		-	-
Mink	10,496	272,560		14,813	497,965
Beaver	-	-		8	92
Fisher	45	5,930		14	2,100
Fitch	337	1,160		172	590
Karakul sheep	-	-		1	75
Marten	3	292		30	2,337
Muskrat	120	446		34	222
Nutria	38	880		90	2,200
Raccoon	128	867		71	494
TOTAL	21,429	830,772		25,202	1,030,888

5. Number and Value of Pelts Sold from Fur Farms, 1936 and 1937

Kind	1936		:	1937	
	Number	Value		Number	Value
		\$		\$	
Silver fox	162,999	4,950,290		196,436	5,019,487
Cross fox	2,610	65,182		2,133	48,899
Red fox	1,724	12,734		1,222	8,382
Blue fox	591	11,071		608	10,586
White fox	4	80		-	-
Mink	40,844	652,940		54,819	681,475
Badger	12	108		5	75
Beaver	25	248		104	1,358
Coyote	122	1,187		126	752
Fisher	33	1,512		9	245
Fitch	1,234	1,738		855	1,470
Karakul sheep	116	538		82	442
Marten	41	830		22	398
Muskrat	4,886	6,438		2,985	3,739
Nutria	2	3		-	-
Raccoon	687	3,519		443	2,175
Skunk	-	-		11	15
Weasel	20	20		-	-
TOTAL	215,950	5,708,438		259,870	5,779,498

6. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals on Fur Farms, December 31, 1936 and 1937.

Kind	1936		:	1937	
	Number	Value		Number	Value
		\$		\$	
Silver fox	151,696	8,345,552		153,822	7,474,741
Cross fox	1,723	61,784		1,388	46,937
Red fox	1,248	13,567		1,119	13,018
Blue fox	649	21,043		723	32,884
White fox	4	120		1	40
Mink	44,695	1,314,133		71,410	2,035,307
Badger	27	810		20	525
Beaver (a)	888	23,428		787	19,330
Chinchilla	-	-		2	3,300
Coyote	27	280		47	550
Fisher	126	13,885		120	12,790
Fitch	1,001	3,472		575	1,953
Karakul sheep	102	560		180	3,330
Marten	122	7,225		136	8,175
Muskrat (a)	17,769	23,194		10,003	12,335
Nutria	62	1,320		152	4,265
Raccoon	930	7,889		865	6,932
Skunk	2	10		6	10
Weasel	8	8		3	9
TOTAL	221,079	9,838,280		241,359	9,676,431

(a) Based on estimates supplied by the operators of the farms.