



The harvest of the fur trade; the cabin of Warden Biggs at Pocahontas, Jasper Park, showing some of his winter's catch.

source of livelihood to handle fire carelessly. Protection of the forest to him was as natural as the protection of the barn in which his harvest and stock are kept is to the settler of to-day.

A forest fire may start in a dry place on the river or lake bank. The dry ridge probably extends back to higher ground that offers most suitable kindling possibilities and soon the whole high part of that section is a seething mass of flames, leaving only the marshy or wet spots untouched. The process has gone on year after year until to-day instead of a vast wooded country we find many large areas burned over.

Marten Casualties.

The natural food of the fur-bearer has suffered in consequence and many marten, particularly, have been burned because when fire starts marten do not try to run away from it but climb the trees and are burned.

It has been pointed out that the "water" animals are not often destroyed by forest fires, but the fact should not be overlooked that they nevertheless do suffer to some extent. Beaver, for example are deprived of their natural food, the inner barks of the birch and poplar trees, and they are forced to migrate, while the others are affected in a greater or less degree.

It is true of course that animals return, after a few years, to the country that has been burnt over, but it takes many years for a section over which a fire has passed to again produce fur in the same quantity and quality. The quality of the fur is greatly impaired where an animal spends much of its time in a country that is lightly timbered. The colour of the fur becomes faded, hence the decline in value.

What Makes Good Furs.

The northern part of British Columbia has produced perhaps the best class of furs, generally speaking, that is found in any part of North America, the main reason being on account of its wealth of timber and abundance of food. Timber produces the color, while an abundance of food produces healthy fur of a fine, glossy texture.

The southern coastal districts of British Columbia do not suffer from the effect of forest fires nearly as much as do the northern and central parts because of a more humid climate, causing fires, when started, to be limited in extent and the rapid growth of vegetation quickly correcting the damage that was done.

Small animals such as ermine, marten, mink, and fisher get their food in early winter from underneath the snow where



A Civil engineer without a college degree; our Canadian Beaver. This animal has escaped the effects of forest fires, although fox, marten, fisher and ermine have suffered disastrously.

mice and other small rodents abound. About March, most of the food which marten have depended on is consumed, making it necessary to migrate to pastures new. By this time the snow is hard on top and migration is easy. During this migration or shifting of the feeding ground, the trapper has his harvest, as at this time, the animals are hungry and easily attracted by bait into a trap.

Much good has been done by forestry departments in recent years through educational campaigns for the protection of the forests. It would seem that an additional crusade on behalf of the fur trade and the lives of the numerous inhabitants interested in it might appeal more intimately to some men who ignore other warnings, and result in greater individual effort being put forth to guard against far-reaching fires resulting from their neglect.

CANADA NOW HAS 587 FUR FARMS

"Fur Farms," just issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show that there were, in 1920, no less than 587 of these establishments distributed throughout the nine provinces and the Yukon Territory.

The total value of the animals was \$4,722,995.

The total value of fur-bearing animals sold from these fur farms last year was \$763,221.

Live foxes imported into Canada during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1921, was 69, valued at \$21,740. The number of live foxes exported in the same period was 1,070, valued at \$227,182.

LUMBERMEN A GREAT FACTOR IN EMPLOYMENT.

Speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association at Toronto, President, D. McLachlin declared that the year 1921 marked a more unsettled state than the five years of war. Mr. McLachlin quoted statistics showing a total of 3,410 lumber establishments in Canada representing a capital investment of 231 million dollars and a pay roll of more than 60 million dollars divided among 60 thousand men. The value of the products of these concerns totalled 220 million dollars in 1919. The membership in the Canadian Lumbermen's Association had risen to 181 compared with 173 a year ago.

The continued progress of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association is due in a very large degree to the intelligent executive direction and great energy displayed by Mr. Frank Hawkins, who for many years has been Secretary.