

By the Chairman:

Q. Are they good breeders too?

A. They average about three and one half to the litter, but they are very difficult to handle.

I will now throw on the screen a slide showing a mink ranch at Lac Chaud, Quebec. In this ranch the company has invested \$49,000.

Q. Are they making a success of it?

A. More or less. Last summer they had an area enclosed of about 200 feet in diameter, by a mink proof fence of one-half inch mesh wire. The mink are able to go down into the water and capture small fish. The company has the privilege of dragging this lake, and the fish secured are fed to the mink. I think I am quite sure of this statement, that the number on this ranch has at least doubled. The company is expecting to get \$25,000 from the Quebec Government to promote this industry, and as soon as they get mink breeding established they will go on with the otter in the same manner. Anybody by enclosing a mill dam or stream could do the same thing on his own farm.

By Mr. Thornton:

Q. You cannot breed weasels, can you?

A. It would not pay to do so. They are so small that you could not fence the young in. If we can farm mink we can probably also farm sable. After learning the business we should go to Russia and get a supply.

This slide shows the drums used in cleaning, drying and polishing the furs. The Indians used to work the skins with their hands. They were the best fur dressers in the world. Later on the furs were put in tubs and tramped on by the naked feet and beaten with rods. They are now largely handled by machinery, although some hand work is yet done. There are dressers and dyers in Canada who handle as many as two million skins a year. The most valuable skins go to London, and come back in both the dressed and the raw conditions.

Q. What about the meat of the Persian lamb?

A. It is said to be very good. They are prolific animals, producing twins frequently, and when only five weeks old the animal is killed for its fur. A leather skin has to be put on to protect the fur from the light, and preserve the curl. When a week or two old it has a very beautiful fur, and often is taken at that time and put on the market as broad-tail, but the skin is very tender. It will fit to one's figure and looks like moire silk. Probably the industry of rearing Persians could be profitably carried on in Canada, as the lamb is killed when it is several weeks old, and consequently has not to be fed for a long period.

(Mr. Jones showed about fifty slides of fox farms, furs, mink, fisher, skunk, and various other slides of interest to fur farmers and furriers.)

The CHAIRMAN: I think we have all enjoyed very much the address of Mr. Jones. I did not know very much about the fur industry myself, but I was satisfied that an address on that subject would be interesting, and that many members would like to hear about the industry.

By Mr. Ross:

Q. I would like to ask what are the authorities on breeding? I have a man in my town interested in this matter, and I would like to help him if I can.

A. Well, there are several authorities. My report is designed to help the breeders. I think I have summarized most of the authorities there. Then there is the *Hunter, Trader and Trapper*, *The Fur Trade Review*, and *Rod and Gun*. The *Hunter, Trader and Trapper* have a little pamphlet on fur farming, but it is not as recent as my work. My investigations are mostly at first hand. My report will not be out yet for a couple of weeks. It will be published by the Commission of Conservation.