

Beaver Farming in Canada

THE beaver is an easily domesticated animal and it has been demonstrated that it will breed in captivity. Beavers will thrive on turnips, carrots, potatoes, etc., with some twigs or bark

of cotton-wood, willow, birch or maple thrown in by way of desert.

Litters average about four, and the young are born in May. Breeding females should be kept in separate pens and provided with a warm nest. Beavers begin to breed when two years old.

The pens should be constructed very much as for foxes, but the fences need not be so high. Wooden fences would, of course, be useless; nothing weaker than galvanized iron sheets or heavy wire netting will stop a beaver's teeth. Precautions must be taken to prevent the animals burrowing out. All pens should contain large pools or troughs of water.

Probably a more satisfactory way of keeping beaver would be to fence in an area which would form a natural habitat. The owner of such a preserve could prevent trapping by trespassers on his property and, with this protection, the beavers would increase and thrive without much attention. A limited number could then be trapped by the owner himself, care being taken to comply with the provincial laws.

There are several beaver ranches of this kind in Canada, but most of them have not been long enough in existence to report on the success or failure of the venture.

Planting by Townships

The councillors of York County, Ontario, have taken a leading part in carrying out the new reforestation plan announced recently by the Ontario Government. Forest conservation is by no means a new topic in York county for as long as fifty years back the York fathers expressed the opinion that "main-

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