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Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

LAWS PROTECT FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

Washington, D. C., In spite of the steadily diminishing supply of animals from which the finer furs are obtained, the value of the raw fur production of the United States and Canada has grown enormously in recent years, according to Farmers' Bulletin 783, Laws Relating to Fur-Bearing Animals, 1916, recently issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The earnings of the trappers of North America in 1915 are estimated by the author of the bulletin to have been not less than \$20,000,000, although exports of raw furs for the year were only about half the normal proportion. In large part, the industry owes its continued success, the bulletin indicates, to legislation passed in recent years protecting fur animals in much of the territory where the business is important.

Two additional States - Kentucky and Mississippi - passed State-wide laws for the protection of fur-bearing animals during 1916. In addition, Virginia passed a general law but provided that the act shall not become effective in any county until the board of county supervisors shall have adopted it.

As a result of the legislation for the year the total number of States protecting one or more species of fur-bearing animals by State-wide laws is increased to 39 in addition to Alaska. The bulletin contains an outline of the provisions of existing laws by States and the Provinces of Canada. Copies of the Publication may be had free on application to the U. S. Department of Agriculture as long as the Department's supply lasts.