

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Biological Survey

DIVISION OF INFORMATION

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Plenty of Silver Fox Available;
Fear Effect of European Dumping

Most of the 15,000 silver fox farmers in the United States will be forced out of business unless prompt action is taken to prevent the dumping of Canadian and European pelts on the American market, it was indicated today by the Bureau of Biological Survey.

The situation was described as the most critical in the 30-year history of American fur farming.

War conditions in Europe have greatly restricted or closed fur markets in England, France, and Central Europe, the Biological Survey reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. As a consequence, between 500,000 and 600,000 silver fox pelts from Canadian and European farmers may be shipped to the United States and unloaded on the American market.

While this will mean a temporary reduction in prices for the consumer, the report warned that too great a supply of foreign furs will make it unprofitable for the American farmer to continue silver fox production. Ultimately consumers would be compelled to pay exorbitant prices because available pelts would be controlled entirely by foreign silver fox breeders.

Some 300,000 silver fox pelts are produced annually by American fur farms. In this branch of the industry, the nation is almost entirely independent of

European supplies of furs. Normally about 50,000 silver fox pelts are imported yearly into the United States.

The general situation about the possibility of a flood of foreign furs undermining the American industry was called by Secretary Ickes to the attention of the Committee for Reciprocity Information, established by the President to deal with questions relating to foreign trade agreements. In a letter to Oscar B. Ryder, chairman of the committee, he suggested that the Bureau of Biological Survey be called upon to discuss the situation with the Committee.