

went to England. At the close of the war, Montreal took a position as an international fur market, holding the first Canadian fur auction sales in 1920, when 949,565 pelts, valued at \$5,057,114, were disposed of. Auction sales have also been held at Winnipeg and Edmonton. The Canadian fur market is now firmly established and sales are held two or three times a year.

Improved methods of capture, together with the advance of lumbering, mining and agricultural settlement, have driven fur-bearing animals farther and farther afield. Close seasons have been declared for Russian sable and Bolivian chinchilla and Canadian beaver, but even this has been insufficient, as is shown by a continued decrease of the numbers of the animals. The fur trade has taken other methods to supply the demand by renaming common and despised furs and by encouraging the use of the furs of domestic animals. About forty years ago, Persian lamb, astrachan and broadtail, the product of the Karakul sheep, came into general use. Several Karakul sheep farms are now established in Canada, the largest of which is situated in Alberta. Of fur-bearing wild animals in Canada, the fox has proved the most suited for domestication. The successful breeding of the fox on fur farms came in the period of rising prices after 1890 with the introduction of woven wire fencing. Other animals have been domesticated, though less successfully than the fox—raccoon, mink, marten, skunk, muskrat and beaver. For a review of the fur farming industry of Canada see pages 270 to 271.

Conservation.—The conservation of the wild life of Canada has been made a special object of government policy through the organization, in 1916, of the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection, to co-ordinate the efforts of various departments and branches of the Dominion government in matters relating to the conservation of the wild life resources of Canada. The Northwest Game Act and the Migratory Birds Convention Act are the most important subjects to which the attention of the Board is specially directed and upon which it makes recommendations. In addition, the Board investigates and studies all problems relating to the protection and better utilization of all fur-bearing animals, "big game" mammals and to bird life whether game birds, insectivorous birds or other. The Board serves entirely without remuneration and in the seven years of its existence it has incurred no expenditure.

In all provinces and territories of the Dominion, regulations governing the taking of fur-bearing animals are in force, and most kinds are protected during certain seasons of the year. In cases where special protection is necessary to avoid extermination of the species, the killing of the animals is prohibited for a period of years. Licenses are required to trade or traffic in furs and monthly and annual returns are made by the traders to the provincial authorities. Some of the provinces also impose a royalty on furs and require that all pelts must be stamped by a game guardian or other provincial officer.

Commencing with 1881, records of the value of production of raw furs in Canada were obtained in the decennial censuses. In 1880, the value of pelts is shown to have been \$987,555, and in 1910, to have been \$1,927,550. In 1920, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics commenced the annual collection of returns from fur traders, and for the season 1919-20, the value of pelts purchased from trappers and fur farmers is shown to have been \$21,387,005. This figure should not be taken as representative of the value of an average year's production, as abnormally high prices were paid for pelts during the early part of the season.

Present Production.—For 1920-21, the total fur production of Canada was valued at \$10,151,594, and for 1921-22, at \$17,438,867. For the calendar years