

other partnerships, and were themselves on the verge of ruin. Finally, in 1821, the two were joined under the name of the older company. The Northwest Company brought with it the control of the Pacific and Arctic watersheds, to be added to the lands draining into Hudson bay, and over the whole region the Hudson's Bay Company secured legal recognition of its monopoly of the fur trade. There followed forty years of great prosperity. The company's rights of exclusive trading in Indian territory expired in 1859, and ten years later it surrendered its other privileges. In return, Canada granted £300,000 to the company, as well as lands about its trading posts, and one-twentieth of the land in the fertile belt between the North Saskatchewan river and the United States boundary. The Hudson's Bay Company thereupon became a trading company, with no extraordinary privileges.

The Modern Industry.—Great changes have come over the trade in recent years. The railway has revolutionized conditions wherever its influence reaches. Steamboats now ply upon the larger lakes and rivers. Rising values have led to new processes of treatment and to the utilization of products once rejected. Competition has been encouraged, and new territory is eagerly sought as in the days prior to 1821. The modern opposition, though it ranges throughout Canada, has centred at Edmonton, on the edge of the great preserve. Winnipeg is now the chief collecting and distributing point of the Hudson's Bay Company, though Moose Factory is visited once a year, as formerly, by a vessel from London. Montreal collects the furs of the Ottawa valley and the Quebec hinterland, and receives the bulk of the supplies.

During the Great War, the important market changed from London to the United States, as is shown in the figures for the war years. Of the \$5,100,000 worth of undressed furs exported to England and the United States in 1914, England received \$3,000,000; in 1919, out of \$13,300,000 worth, only \$3,700,000 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 re-naming 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 237 to 239.

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