

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 over a period of years. Licences are required for trapping and trading, and direct revenue is derived by the provinces and territories from raw furs. The activities of the Dominion as a whole, with respect to wild life, are co-ordinated through biennial conferences of provincial and Dominion game protection officials. These conferences are called by the Department of the Interior, and have assisted in evolving efficient plans for the preservation of Canada's wild-life resources.

Fur Trade Statistics.—Statistics of the number and value of raw furs and skins taken were collected at the decennial census of 1881 and thereafter till 1911, the figures showing a value of \$987,555 taken in 1880, \$768,983 in 1890, \$899,645 in 1900 and \$1,927,550 in 1910. In 1920 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics commenced the annual collection of returns from fur traders, but arrangements were subsequently made with the provinces, whereby the provincial game departments undertook to supply annually to the Bureau, statements of the number and value of pelts taken in the respective provinces, the information being based on royalties, export taxes, etc. The figures of pelts taken and their values are given for the available years in Table 1. The high value shown for 1920 is due to the inflated prices of that time.

Details by provinces of the number of pelts taken in the two latest years are given in Table 2, and details by kinds in Table 3. In the latter it will be noted that fox, taken together, is the leader, followed by muskrat and mink. Beaver, ermine (weasel) and marten each contributed over \$1,000,000 to the fur production of Canada in the latest year. The total number of pelts in 1928-29 was 5,150,328, an increase of 1,549,175 over the preceding season. This increase was mainly due to three kinds, which have a large annual production but are among the lower priced furs, *viz.*, ermine (weasel), which increased by 390,846, or 78 p.c.; muskrat, which increased by 822,876, or 42 p.c.; and squirrel, which increased by 418,163, or 156 p.c. On the other hand, many of the higher priced furs—beaver, coyote, fisher, blue fox, patch or cross fox, red fox, white fox, lynx, marten, raccoon and wolf—show decreases in number of pelts. Thus the value of pelts shows a slight decline in the latest year.

1.—Summary of the Numbers and Values of Pelts of Fur-bearing Animals Taken in Canada, years ended June 30, 1920-1929.

Year ended June 30.	Pelts.	Value of Pelts.
	No.	\$
1920.....	3,630,004	21,387,905 ¹
1921.....	2,936,407	10,151,594
1922.....	4,366,790	17,438,867
1923.....	4,963,996	16,761,567
1924.....	4,207,593	15,643,817
1925.....	3,820,326	15,441,564
1926.....	3,686,148	15,072,244
1927.....	4,289,233	18,864,126
1928.....	3,601,153	18,758,177
1929.....	5,150,328	18,745,473

¹ Fur prices in this year were abnormally high. Any comparison of this figure with those of later years should take this into account.