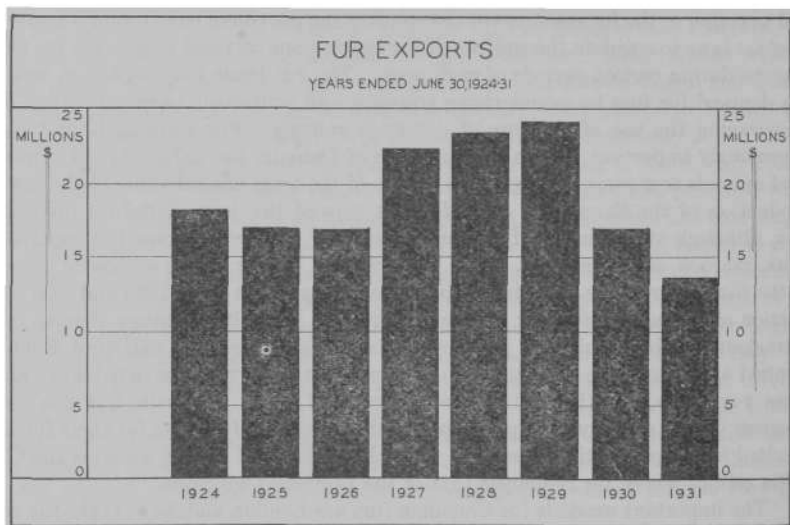


A century ago the value of the export trade in furs exceeded that of any other product. This has been greatly changed, yet the total output has not declined and Canada may be described as one of the great fur preserves of the world. In 1667 exports of furs to France and the West Indies were valued at 550,000 francs. In 1850, the first year for which trade tables of the Customs Department are available, the value of raw furs exported was £19,395 (\$93,872); for the twelve months ending June 30, 1920, the value was \$20,417,329; for 1925, \$17,131,172; for 1928, \$23,598,259, for 1929, \$24,181,208 and for 1930, \$15,357,386. Raw furs to the value of \$13,544,088 were exported during the twelve months ended June 30, 1931, the British market absorbing \$7,456,594 worth and the United States most of the rest. The chart below shows the fluctuation of fur exports between the seasons 1924 and 1931. Canadian manufactures of furs and the home consumption are annually increasing with the growth of wealth and population. The area which will continue to furnish the historic peltries when settlement has planted its furthest outpost will still have to be reckoned by the hundreds of thousands of square miles. It is the function of the fur trade to turn this vast domain to perpetual economic use.

For a review of the fur farming industry of Canada, see Appendix III.



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 others. The Board serves entirely without remuneration and during the whole period of its existence has incurred no expenditure.