

6.—Values of Fur-Bearing Animals and of Pelts Sold from Fur Farms, 1944-47

Kind of Animal	1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Animals	Pelts	Animals	Pelts	Animals	Pelts	Animals	Pelts
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Chinchilla.....	3,800	—	23,225	—	295,130	—	238,820	—
Coyote.....	100	360	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fisher.....	8,652	2,909	3,590	544	9,260	637	7,150	2,125
Fitch.....	240	1,159	679	997	484	1,088	113	676
Fox, blue.....	28,675	125,005	37,305	151,122	18,998	83,397	4,210	52,740
Fox, cross.....	1,170	29,565	314	19,080	190	10,119	160	4,490
Fox, new-type.....	316,753	1,091,036	312,967	1,633,938	142,887	1,388,526	38,451	1,389,998
Fox, red.....	564	8,953	442	6,138	312	4,269	25	2,203
Fox, silver.....	248,484	3,093,065	301,897	2,956,725	171,499	1,723,633	43,779	1,482,328
Fox, other.....	—	1,108	185	674	225	964	276	618
Marten.....	11,253	2,820	8,440	1,280	15,484	510	2,370	1,479
Mink.....	520,530	3,884,243	1,064,018	5,505,272	1,844,627	3,571,314	1,039,379	8,780,456
Nutria.....	925	272	375	257	475	103	140	270
Raccoon.....	93	369	63	447	67	121	84	113
Totals.....	1,141,239	8,240,864	1,753,500	10,276,474	2,499,638	6,784,681	1,374,957	11,717,496

Section 4.—Marketing and Foreign Trade

The first Canadian fur auction sale was held at Montreal in 1920 and since then that city has been the leading Canadian fur mart. To-day, auction sales are also held at Vancouver, B.C., Edmonton, Alta., Regina, Sask., and Winnipeg, Man. At Regina the Saskatchewan Government maintains a Fur Marketing Service to assist the producers in that Province.

Grading.—In 1939 the Federal Department of Agriculture introduced the grading of furs. One of the Department's main objectives in grading is to secure uniformity so that furs may be purchased by grade without the necessity of buyers from other countries personally examining the pelts. Grading offers many advantages to the producer as well as to the trade in general. It educates the rancher as to the proper value of his pelts, and creates an incentive to improve the quality of the product; it furnishes guidance in the planning of future matings, aids in raising the standard of quality of the entire crop of pelts and helps in advancing the level of prices for high-quality pelts.

Exports and Imports.—Prior to the Second World War Canada marketed her fur pelts mainly in the United Kingdom but, since that market was practically dormant during the war years, the fur trade was carried on for the most part with the United States. A definite revival of trade with the United Kingdom was shown in 1946, 1947 and 1948.

The Canadian fur trade, both exports and imports, is chiefly in undressed furs, the value of dressed and manufactured furs going out of Canada or coming in making up a comparatively small proportion of the total. A good part of the exports consists, of course, of those furs which Canada produces in greatest abundance, mink being the most valuable, followed by beaver, muskrat and fox. On the other hand, such furs as Persian lamb, certain types of muskrat, rabbit and squirrel, opossum and raccoon, which are not produced to any extent in Canada, make up the major portion of the imports.