

multitude of colours and patterns. By selective breeding the original reddish-brown mink has become a beautifully furred animal with a thick coat of soft velvety texture and rich blue-black colour, set off by a background of blue or slate-shaded under-fur.

Among the earliest mutations to appear was an attractive bluish-gray mink which became known as "Platinum" mink. Mink mutations began to appear in ever-increasing numbers on farms from coast to coast and later, as breeders again cross-bred these new mutations, a still greater profusion of colour combinations appeared. An excellent example of this cross-breeding of mutations is the "Sapphire" mink, a cross of the steel-blue "Aleutian" with the blue-gray "Platinum" Other unusual colour patterns are the "Royal Pastel", a beautiful brown mink with a bluish cast, and an exquisite snow-white mink.

It has long been known that the mink produces an extremely versatile fur and the industry is now setting great emphasis on this quality, thus gaining for mink a place among the high-quality furs of the world.

Section 2.—Statistics of Fur Production*

Total Fur Production Statistics.—Early records of raw-fur production are confined to the decennial censuses, when account was taken of the numbers and values of pelts obtained by trappers. In 1920 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics commenced an annual survey of raw-fur production, basing its statistics on information supplied by the licensed fur traders. This survey was continued for some years. More recently, annual statements based on royalties, export tax, etc., have been made available by the provincial game departments (except Prince Edward Island), and these statements are now used in the preparation of the statistics issued annually by the Bureau. Figures for Prince Edward Island are based on returns supplied to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by fur traders in that Province.

1.—Pelts of Fur-Bearing Animals Produced, with Percentages Sold from Fur Farms, Years Ended June 30, 1932-51

(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Year	Pelts		Percentage of Value Sold from Fur Farms ¹	Year	Pelts		Percentage of Value Sold from Fur Farms ¹
	Number	Value			Number	Value	
		\$				\$	
1932.....	4,449,289	10,189,481	30	1942.....	19,561,024	24,859,869	19
1933.....	4,503,558	10,305,154	30	1943.....	7,418,971	23,505,033	24
1934.....	6,076,197	12,349,328	30	1944.....	6,324,240	33,147,392	28
1935.....	4,926,413	12,843,341	31	1945.....	6,994,686	31,001,456	31
1936.....	4,596,713	15,464,883	40	1946.....	7,593,416	43,870,541	30
1937.....	6,237,640	17,526,365	40	1947.....	7,486,914	26,349,997	37
1938.....	4,745,927	13,196,354	43	1948.....	7,952,146	32,232,992	37
1939.....	6,492,222	14,286,937	40	1949.....	9,902,790	22,899,882	33
1940.....	9,620,695	16,668,348	31	1950.....	7,377,491	23,184,033	34
1941.....	7,257,337	21,123,161	26	1951.....	7,479,272	31,134,400	36

¹ Approximate.

Ontario leads the provinces in value of fur production, accounting for 26 p.c. of the total in the 1950-51 season. The numbers of pelts taken in both Alberta and Manitoba were higher than in Ontario, but in these provinces muskrat and squirrel, which are lower-priced furs, made up the major portion of the total. In Ontario the more valuable mink, beaver and fox pelts brought the total value to a higher level.

* Revised in the Agriculture Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.