

### Section 4.—The Fur-Processing Industry\*

The rather general term "fur processing" includes the fur-dressing and -dyeing industry and the fur-goods industry. The former is concerned with the dressing or dyeing of pelts on a custom basis, while the latter is a manufacturing industry that actually makes up fur goods such as coats, scarves and gloves.

Fur-dressing and -dyeing industry statistics were first recorded in 1917, when 12 establishments with 512 employees reported receipts of \$1,071,805. Eight establishments in 1924 reported a revenue of \$1,120,895, expenditures on dyes, chemicals and other materials used of \$162,013 and on salaries and wages to 539 employees of \$561,233. Of the 3,473,909 skins treated in that year, muskrat pelts made up 47 p.c., rabbit 19 p.c. and squirrel 10 p.c. By 1950 the number of skins treated had increased to 13,639,110, muskrat accounting for 34 p.c., rabbit for 29 p.c. and squirrel for 13 p.c. Other types of skins treated fluctuated very widely over the past quarter-century, the numbers being affected not only by climatic conditions under which trapping is carried on but also by the development of fur farming and, above all, by the vagaries of fashion. Principal statistics of the fur-dressing industry for the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 are given in Table 8.

8.—Principal Statistics of the Fur-Dressing Industry, 1948-50

Item	1948	1949	1950
Establishments..... No.	21	21	22
Employees on Salaries—			
Male..... No.	123	109	120
Female..... "	37	42	44
Employees on Wages—			
Male..... No.	1,124	1,224	1,187
Female..... "	318	295	282
Salaries paid..... \$	596,035	628,890	653,615
Wages paid..... \$	2,523,432	2,858,743	2,766,881
Cost of materials used (dyes, chemicals, etc.)..... \$	1,135,650	1,215,541	1,294,259
Pelts treated..... No.	14,137,455	13,933,261	13,639,110
Amount received for treatment of furs..... \$	6,126,532	6,691,418	6,514,772

Statistics for the fur-goods industry, on a comparable basis, are available from 1921, when 219 establishments reported a gross value of production of \$13,639,609, with employees numbering 2,621 who received \$3,013,706 in salaries and wages. Cost of materials used in the manufacturing process totalled \$8,118,833. Principal statistics for the industry for the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 are given in Table 9.

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