

Since 1931, the Department of Lands and Forests has been redistributing live beaver, which had been almost completely trapped out before that time. To-day beaver is an important part of the trappers' catch in all the counties of the mainland, where a ten-day autumn season has been instituted. A few live beaver have also been introduced into Cape Breton Island over the years and a further release of 50 animals in 1953 completed this project but no open seasons have yet been proclaimed for the Island. The Department of Lands and Forests collects, packs and ships all beaver pelts and these are marketed in graded lots.

The red squirrel has become increasingly important as a fur-bearer and in 1954 the laws were changed to permit trapping during the regular season and shooting of these animals through the rabbit season which lasts until the end of February.

In Nova Scotia, trapping is not a full-time occupation but is a source of additional income to guides, woods workers and farmers who live near fur-producing areas.

Export figures are compiled as a by-product of the collection of royalties on furs exported. Exports of wild-animal furs in 1953-54 included: 29,498 deer hides, 553 red fox, 12 cross fox, 202 silver fox, 2,252 mink, 57,185 muskrat, 174 otter, 1,852 raccoon, 5,509 weasel, 248 wildcat, 82,743 red squirrel, 31 rabbit (snowshoe hare), 10 lynx, 3,165 beaver and a few pelts of skunk, seal, housecat, etc.

Quebec.—Wild fur is still a very important asset to the Province of Quebec, despite the invasion of the forest for industrial purposes. The total number of pelts taken in 1952-53 was 327,180 valued at \$1,287,733. In the following season the number increased to 336,967 but the value dropped to \$1,139,117. The average value of each of the basic furs—beaver, mink, muskrat, weasel and squirrel—was lower in the 1953-54 season, while prices of red and white fox remained the same. A few types, such as otter, fisher and raccoon, showed an increase in this respect. Pelts produced in 1953-54 included: muskrat, 190,457; squirrel, 45,929; weasel, 35,008; beaver, 19,079; mink, 12,896; seal, 8,073; white fox, 7,893; red fox, 4,841; raccoon, 3,370; deer, 3,115; otter, 2,269; lynx, 1,068; fisher, 1,032; skunk, 746; marten, 492; black, blue, cross and silver fox, 381; bear, 196; wolf, 88; and lynx cat, 34. On this take, the tax rate per pelt, which varies from one cent on squirrel to \$2 on fisher, resulted in a royalty revenue to the Province of \$70,660.

The administration of the fur resources of Quebec is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Game and Fisheries. Under the game laws and regulations, it is unlawful to hunt, catch or trap fur-bearing animals out of season, or in season without a licence; to use poison to hunt or kill any animals; to destroy or damage lairs or burrows of fur-bearing animals; or to keep in captivity, without special permit, any game protected by law. Regulations also cover the marketing of furs. It is not permissible to buy or sell any fur or pelt for commercial purposes without a licence; neither is it permissible to ship any fur outside the Province, or from one place to another within the Province, or to a tanner, without a permit attached to the bill of lading or without royalty having been paid and each pelt having been stamped or sealed.

By Order in Council of Aug. 17, 1945, the first registered game territory for trappers was set up by the Provincial Government in the Counties of East Abitibi and West Abitibi; in 1946 the County of Pontiac was organized, in 1947 Temiskaming and in 1952 the northern part of the County of Lavolette.