**Grading.**—The grading of furs to secure uniformity was introduced in 1939 by the federal Department of Agriculture 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.**—Before World War II, Canada marketed fur pelts mainly in the United Kingdom but that market was practically dormant during the war years and the fur trade was carried on chiefly with the United States. A revival of trade with the United Kingdom took place after the War but almost 80 p.c. of Canadian fur exports still go to the United States.

The Canadian fur trade, both export and import, is mostly in undressed furs, the value of dressed and manufactured furs going out of or coming into Canada being a comparatively small proportion of the total. Canadian fur exports consist largely of those produced in greatest abundance, mink being the most valuable followed by beaver, muskrat and squirrel. Furs such as Persian lamb, mink, certain types of muskrat, raccoon, sheep and lamb and Kolinsky make up the major portion of the imports.

Exports and imports of all furs to and from the United States, the United Kingdom and all countries are given for the years 1956 and 1957 in Table 7.

**7.—Exports and Imports of Furs, by Kind, 1956 and 1957**

| Kind of Fur | 1956 | | | 1957 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | United Kingdom | United States | All Countries | United Kingdom | United States | All Countries |
| | EXPORTS | | | | | |
| | $ | $ | $ | $ | $ | $ |
| Undressed— | | | | | | |
| Beaver | 1,015,442 | 2,330,198 | 3,730,349 | 964,293 | 1,930,237 | 3,431,534 |
| Ermine | 203,877 | 232,930 | 436,807 | 195,124 | 106,406 | 302,046 |
| Fisher | 111,241 | 55,317 | 185,517 | 65,964 | 30,052 | 112,068 |
| Fox, all types | 82,881 | 913,892 | 1,001,433 | 69,905 | 663,900 | 742,728 |
| Lynx | 49,645 | 39,519 | 89,709 | 11,177 | 100,097 | 111,358 |
| Marten | 39,572 | 99,465 | 139,165 | 27,018 | 65,543 | 93,358 |
| Mink | 698,437 | 15,636,199 | 16,673,847 | 1,258,689 | 16,976,813 | 18,730,720 |
| Muskrat | 1,323,427 | 1,069,132 | 2,453,676 | 1,095,943 | 317,570 | 1,487,992 |
| Otter | 5,610 | 34,601 | 51,615 | 13,141 | 11,270 | 35,789 |
| Rabbit | 415 | 89,426 | 92,578 | — | 83,520 | 83,520 |
| Raccoon | 408 | 23,446 | 23,854 | 111 | 10,469 | 16,749 |
| Seal | — | 36,491 | 36,491 | — | — | — |
| Skunk | 4,444 | 5,005 | 9,449 | 2,389 | 595 | 2,984 |
| Squirrel | 580,057 | 17,382 | 597,467 | 541,521 | 19,068 | 562,698 |
| Weasel | 96,412 | 111,853 | 208,265 | 35,156 | 42,146 | 77,302 |
| Wolf | 4,462 | 4,084 | 8,636 | 4,122 | 5,808 | 13,798 |
| Other | 8,172 | 132,071 | 154,247 | 26,400 | 94,173 | 139,326 |
| Dressed— | | | | | | |
| Fox | — | — | 391 | — | — | — |
| Other | 9,713 | 552,742 | 1,310,995 | 49,810 | 444,364 | 1,465,305 |
| Manufactured | 3,175 | 491,126 | 528,408 | 2,591 | 493,337 | 570,458 |
| **Totals** | **4,237,390** | **21,874,879** | **27,732,899** | **4,363,354** | **21,395,368** | **27,979,733** |