

## 3.—Pelts of Fur-Bearing Animals Taken, by Kind, Years Ended June 30, 1958 and 1959

Kind	1958			1959		
	Pelts	Total Value	Average Value	Pelts	Total Value	Average Value
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Badger.....	663	949	1.43	348	1,002	2.88
Bear, white.....	558	34,580	61.97	413	28,350	68.64
Bear, unspecified.....	775	2,424	3.13	493	3,276	6.65
Beaver.....	341,674	3,572,054	10.45	328,584	3,353,031	10.20
Coyote or prairie wolf.....	3,899	8,269	2.12	2,533	7,813	3.08
Ermine (weasel).....	278,681	303,039	1.09	255,139	246,982	0.97
Fisher.....	5,718	97,668	17.08	4,850	84,038	17.33
Fox, blue.....	280	1,339	4.78	213	1,687	7.92
Fox, cross and red.....	11,479	12,882	1.12	15,578	27,796	1.78
Fox, silver.....	272	796	2.93	266	1,546	5.81
Fox, white.....	31,890	486,659	15.26	26,539	529,866	19.97
Fox, not specified.....	66	66	1.00	24	24	1.00
Lynx.....	9,506	85,499	8.99	14,165	198,350	14.00
Marten.....	16,566	104,132	6.29	18,047	109,788	6.08
Mink, standard.....	318,754	4,783,074	15.01	270,054	4,453,357	16.49
Mink, mutation.....	797,534	13,562,249	17.01	859,182	13,826,366	16.09
Muskrat.....	2,931,671	2,084,773	0.71	2,171,739	1,846,277	0.85
Otter.....	16,238	383,719	23.63	15,120	348,477	23.05
Rabbit.....	105,102	41,527	0.40	96,720	50,858	0.53
Raccoon.....	31,278	43,532	1.39	14,081	26,698	1.90
Skunk.....	5,455	4,569	0.84	1,744	1,422	0.82
Squirrel.....	1,523,518	626,493	0.41	1,262,006	499,238	0.40
Wildcat.....	564	622	1.10	778	2,915	3.75
Wolf.....	810	4,235	5.23	1,112	18,230	16.39
Wolverine.....	632	9,852	15.59	453	7,761	17.13
Other.....	6,736	80,108	...	10,399	126,227	...
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>6,440,319</b>	<b>26,335,109</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>5,370,580</b>	<b>25,801,395</b>	<b>...</b>

**Fur Farm Production.**—Fur-bearing animals were first raised in Canada on farms in Prince Edward Island about 1887 and in Quebec in 1898; today fur farming is carried on in all the provinces. Foxes were the first fur-bearers to be raised in captivity on a commercial scale and for a time were of prime importance in the fur farming industry but recently very few foxes have been raised on farms. In 1958 mink accounted for 92 p.c. of the total fur-bearing animals on farms and chinchilla for 7 p.c. Small numbers of raccoon, marten, fisher, fitch, nutria and others are also reared.

There was a slow and steady increase in the number of fur farms until 1920 when 587 were reported, followed by a period of more rapid growth from 1920 to 1938 when the number reached 10,454 with a production value of \$6,500,000. In 1939, when the London and other European markets were lost to the fur industry, prices declined and many fur farms went out of production. Though prices rose considerably after the Second World War, operating costs increased and the number of fur farms, particularly those conducted in conjunction with other farming operations, continued to decrease. By 1958 only 2,572 farms reported but the value of production was \$16,094,000. The decrease in number of farms from 1957 amounted to 165, but the number of animals on such farms increased from 465,333 to 500,844 and the number of pelts taken increased from 4,891 to 9,160. Fox pelts taken continued their downward trend but there were 50,000 more mink pelts sold in 1958 than in 1957. Chinchilla also showed a considerable advance with an increase from 4,701 to 8,394.

Ontario is by far the major ranch-fur producer among the provinces and showed the greatest increase in value of production from 1957 to 1958. British Columbia and Manitoba followed in second and third places and these three provinces together produced 70 p.c. of the total value in the later year.