

Most Canadian ranched mink pelts are shipped directly from farm to auction house where they are sold for the account of the producer, the fur auction house charging a commission for its services, based on a percentage of the selling price. A small percentage of the total catch of wild furs goes direct from the trapper to the auction house. Because most trappers require an outlet close at hand where they can dispose of their pelts immediately in exchange for needed supplies, the bulk of Canadian wild furs passes initially from the trapper to the local dealer who is often the operator of a small country store. Here, furs from many trappers are assembled and may then be shipped to the fur auction house or may await the arrival of a travelling buyer who will add them to his larger collection before shipping.

At the auction sales, furs are purchased by buyers through competitive bidding. In recent years an increasing number of the bidders are overseas members of the trade who come to Canada to fill their requirements. With rapid air transport now available, only a few hours separate them from Canada and their business can be transacted with a minimum of expense and delay. Alternatively, those whose requirements are not sufficiently large to warrant a trip to Canada may engage one of a number of experienced Canadian fur brokers who are experts in their field and fully competent to purchase on behalf of clients.

Section 2.—Provincial and Territorial Fur Resources and Management

Most of the fur resources of the provinces of Canada are under the administration of the respective provincial governments. Exceptions include those resources within the boundaries of the National Parks and the Indian reserves, and the fur resources of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, all of which are under the administration of the Federal Government. The Canadian Wildlife Service of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources (see pp. 37-38) is responsible for all Federal Government interests in wildlife resources except for those activities closely related to Indian affairs. The Service co-operates with provincial governments and other agencies concerned and handles federal interests in relevant national and international problems.

Detailed descriptions of provincial and territorial fur resources and management activities are given in the 1957-58 Year Book, pp. 616-622.

Section 3.—Fur Statistics

Subsection 1.—Fur Production and Trade*

Total Fur Production.—Early records of raw fur production were confined to the decennial censuses when account was taken of the number and value of pelts obtained by trappers. In 1920 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics commenced an annual survey of raw fur production. For a number of years the statistics were based on information supplied by the licensed fur trappers. 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 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 dealers in that province.

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