

firms in any part of the world; Canadian pelts are traditionally sold in the raw or unprocessed state, facilitating entry into the many countries which maintain tariffs on imports of processed furs. The fur industry contributes about \$25,000,000 annually to Canada's export trade, approximately two thirds of the annual production going outside the country.

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. However, 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.

The selling season commences in December with large offerings of fresh ranched mink pelts, and later in the same month initial quantities of the new season's wild furs become available. Trapping in the northern regions gets under way around the same time as the pelting of ranch-raised mink, but because of the slower process involved in passing from trapper to country dealer to fur auction house, major quantities of wild furs are not generally available until January. In this and succeeding months, offerings of ranched mink continue, along with quantities of the world-famed Canadian wild mink, beaver and many other varieties.

Canada's production of ranched mink pelts currently constitutes approximately one twelfth of the total value of world production of ranched mink, while the value of the wild furs produced in this country amounts to approximately one quarter of the total value of the world's production of furs in this category. The Canadian production is therefore of major importance in the world's fur industry and in recent years it has been gratifying to note that, in addition to the competition provided by Canadian and United States buyers, fur auction offerings in this country have also benefited through participation of a substantial attendance of European buyers. During the 1961-62 selling season, these people set the pace at many Canadian auction sales and their determination to take home with them the top quality merchandise contributed materially to the success of these events.

## **Section 2.—Provincial and Territorial Fur Resource 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 and 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 is responsible for all Federal Government interests in wildlife resources except for those related to Indian affairs. The Canadian Wildlife Service co-operates with provincial governments and other agencies concerned and handles federal interests in relevant national and international problems. The functions of the Canadian Wildlife Service together with provincial information on wildlife resources and conservation measures are covered in Chapter I of this volume at pp. 44-52.

## **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

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