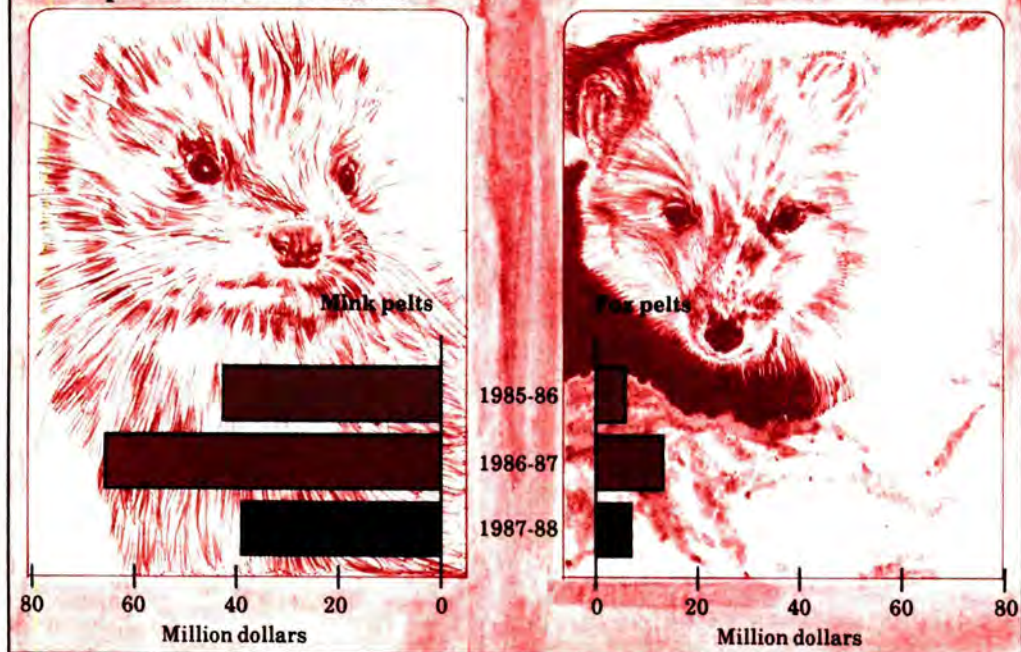


Chart 8.3

Pelts produced on fur farms

totalled \$240.8 million, up from the total of \$179.4 million in 1985-86 and \$45.4 million more than the 1984-85 total of \$195.4 million.

The export of fur fashion garments on an important scale is a fairly new development on the Canadian fur scene. Historically, Canadian exports of furs have consisted mainly of undressed pelts from fur farms and the trapline. There are fairly definite limits to which this type of export can be developed. The production of wildlife pelts is relatively limited; it showed an increase during 1986-87 of 19.3% above 1985-86.

In the fur manufacturing industry no such limits apply. Other factors, however, are present, principally import tariffs and competition from fur manufacturers in the importing countries. A high degree of efficiency in design and manufacture is required by Canada to compete, and there is a growing export group among Canadian fur manufacturers which is extending the horizons of this formerly domestic industry.

8.4 Wildlife

Original inhabitants of what is now Canada depended on wildlife for food and clothing and some still do in remote areas. Europeans brought

development of the fur trade which to a large extent guided the course of exploration and settlement. When the country was being developed, a number of mammals and birds became seriously depleted or extinct. As settlement progressed, wildlife habitat was reduced by cutting and burning forests, cultivating of grasslands, polluting streams, by industrial and urban development, draining wetlands and building dams.

Today the arctic and alpine tundra, a major vegetational region, has begun to show serious effects of man-made changes. The adjacent sub-arctic and sub-alpine non-commercial forests have been affected principally by human travel and an increase in the number of forest fires. Forests, grasslands and wetlands have undergone major changes as a result of conversion to other uses and general degradation of environmental quality.

Canada's varied and abundant wildlife includes most of the world's stock of a number of species, such as woodland caribou, mountain sheep, wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines. Many factors cause fluctuations in wildlife numbers, such as over-harvesting, habitat loss and natural changes in the environment.

Early attempts at wildlife conservation began in 1887 when the continent's first bird sanctuary