

6.—Value of Fur-Bearing Animals and of Pelts Sold from Fur Farms, 1949-52

(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Kind of Animal	1949		1950		1951		1952	
	Animals	Pelts	Animals	Pelts	Animals	Pelts	Animals	Pelts
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Chinchilla.....	404,161	150	518,750	—	416,318	1	326,122	1
Fisher.....	975	177	1	1	1	1,436	1	209
Fitch.....	75	280	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fox, blue.....	210	37,802	185	20,277		8,167		4,093
Fox, new-type.....	2,642	427,964	4,287	283,573	8,248	158,368	4,432	68,769
Fox, silver.....	16,615	505,404	14,567	463,181		369,478		155,468
Fox, other.....	92	1,788	13	930		1,194		433
Marten.....	6,081	1,210	2,754	2,841	6,313	2,519	1	1,043
Mink.....	288,411	7,820,747	431,212	10,064,005	547,647	10,875,371	541,516	10,026,982
Nutria.....	80	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Raccoon.....	42	26	1	1	1	39	1	34
Other.....	300	—	730	700	1,649	1,483	1,894	3,908
Totals.....	719,684	8,795,550	972,498	10,835,507	980,175	11,418,055	873,964	10,260,939

¹ Included in "Other".

Section 5.—Marketing of Furs

Montreal, Que., is the leading Canadian fur mart, although auction sales are also held at Vancouver, B.C., Edmonton, Alta., Regina, Sask., and Winnipeg, Man. The Saskatchewan Government maintains a Fur Marketing Service at Regina to assist producers in that Province.

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 mainly with the United States. A definite 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 chiefly 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. Exports consist largely of furs which Canada produces in greatest abundance, mink being the most valuable followed by beaver, muskrat and fox. On the other hand, furs such as Persian lamb, certain types of muskrat, rabbit, squirrel, sheep and lamb, which are not produced to any extent in Canada, 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 1952 and 1953 in Table 7.