

Since 1931 the Department of Lands and Forests has been redistributing live beaver, which had been almost completely trapped out before that time. Today beaver is an important part of the trappers' catch in most of the counties of the mainland, where a ten day autumn season has been instituted. A few live beaver have also been introduced into Cape Breton Island but no open seasons have been proclaimed.

The red squirrel has become increasingly important as a fur bearer and in 1954 the laws were changed to permit trapping during the regular season and shooting during the rabbit season which lasts until the end of February.

In Nova Scotia trapping is not a full time occupation but is a source of additional income to guides, woods workers and farmers who live near fur producing areas.

Export figures are compiled as a byproduct of the collection of royalties on furs exported. Exports of wild animal furs in 1953-54 included: 29,498 deer hides, 553 red fox, 12 cross fox, 202 silver fox, 2,252 mink, 57,185 muskrat, 174 otter, 1,852 raccoon, 5,509 weasel, 248 wildcat, 82,743 red squirrel, 31 rabbit (snowshoe hare), 10 lynx, 3,165 beaver and a few pelts of skunk, seal, housecat, etc.

Quebec.—Fur from wildlife is still a very important asset to the Province of Quebec despite the invasion of the forest for industrial purposes.

The total number of pelts taken was 302,580 in the 1954-55 season. This number was lower than the 336,967 of 1953-54 but the value was higher—\$1,766,647 as against \$1,139,117 for the previous year.

The average value of each of the basic furs (beaver, mink, muskrat and weasel) was higher in 1954-55; white fox, fisher, otter and marten also advanced in price over 1953-54 but blue fox and lynx were lower. Prices of other types remained stable in both seasons.

Pelts produced in 1954-55 included: muskrat 122,709, weasel 47,973, squirrel 37,755, beaver 32,901, white fox 19,201, mink 17,470, seal 7,633, red fox 4,958, otter 3,127, raccoon 3,103, lynx 1,714, fisher 1,219, marten 738, cross fox 537, deer 439, skunk 389, blue fox 264, bear 257; and a few pelts of other types of foxes, lynx cat, polar bear and wolf. The tax rate per pelt varies from one cent on squirrel to \$2 on fisher. The royalties revenue to the Province on the total take of furs in 1954-55 was \$95,734.

The administration of the fur resources of Quebec is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Game and Fisheries. Under the game laws and regulations it is unlawful to hunt, catch or trap fur bearing animals out of season, or in season without a licence; to use poison to hunt or kill any animals; to destroy or damage lairs or burrows of fur bearing animals; or to keep in captivity, without special permit, any game protected by law. Regulations also cover the marketing of furs. It is not permissible to buy or sell any fur or pelt for commercial purposes without a licence; neither is it permissible to ship any fur outside the Province, or from one place to another within the Province, or to a tanner, without a permit attached to the bill of lading or without royalty having been paid and each pelt having been stamped or sealed.

By Order in Council of Aug. 17, 1945 the first registered game territory for trappers was set up by the Provincial Government in the Counties of East Abitibi and West Abitibi; in 1946 the County of Pontiac was organized, in 1947 Temiskaming and in 1952 the northern part of the County of Lavolette.

Regulations provide mainly that the land under lease must not exceed 50 sq. miles. The lessee, who pays an annual rental of \$10, is responsible for his own land which he must occupy 15 days before the opening of the trapping season and evacuate 15 days after its close. Each year he must make an inventory of his land and report on the location of the beaver huts thereon. He must hold a special permit to hunt beaver and must prove that there are at least five huts on his land. The quota allowed at the outset is one beaver per hut; as the population increases, the quota is raised to 1½ beavers per hut. Beaver pelts must be specially labelled before marketing