

6.—Number and Value of Pelts Produced on Fur Farms by Kinds 1951-54

(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Kind of Animal	1951		1952		1953		1954	
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
		\$		\$		\$		\$
Fox—								
Blue.....	1,061	8,167	491	4,093	236	1,777	166	1,825
Platinum.....	4,451	64,523	2,304	22,886	815	6,072	512	4,214
Pearl platinum.....	4,277	70,424	3,158	37,611	2,837	25,900	1,832	23,391
Silver.....	31,664	369,478	18,007	155,468	6,492	46,286	4,191	40,272
White-marked.....	2,229	23,421	1,198	8,272	384	2,016	127	794
Other.....	104	1,194	71	433	20	201	8	58
Mink—								
Standard.....	440,238	6,851,719	429,132	5,378,507	325,358	4,245,944	264,422	4,119,967
Mutation—								
Platinum (silverblu)...	96,547	2,011,144	118,768	2,002,883	118,251	2,024,635	141,060	2,414,448
Pastel.....	59,565	1,526,788	80,496	1,723,933	108,516	2,183,680	172,984	3,898,745
Other.....	22,589	485,720	37,135	921,659	70,233	1,643,535	98,548	2,435,627
Chinchilla.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,460	34,245
Fisher.....	46	1,436	1	1	1	1	1	1
Marten.....	95	2,519	54	1,043	30	425	1	1
Raccoon.....	28	39	24	34	19	27	6	10
Other.....	200	1,483	289	4,117	954	17,095	105	986
Totals.....	663,094	11,418,055	691,127	10,260,939	634,145	10,197,593	685,421	12,974,562

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 revival of trade with the United Kingdom took place after the War but 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. Furs such as Persian lamb, certain types of muskrat, mink, sheep and lamb and squirrel 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 1953 and 1954 in Table 7.