Exports of wild fur for the year ended Mar. 31, 1955, included: 31,945 deer hides, and pelts of 4,445 beaver, 485 fox, 20 lynx, 2,857 mink, 40,441 muskrat, 212 otter, 1,253 raccoon, 41,757 red squirrel, 3,771 weasel and 178 wildcat.

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

The number of pelts taken in the 1955-56 season was 254,138 including: muskrat 141,511, weasel 22,433, squirrel 16,918, beaver 36,302, white fox 3,042, mink 12,019, seal 8,289, red fox 3,325, otter 2,749, raccoon 2,394, lynx 1,469, fisher 1,401, marten 1,273, cross fox 234, skunk 276, blue fox 53, bear 221; and a few pelts of the other types of foxes, lynx cat, polar bear and wolf. The tax rate per pelt varies from one cent on squirrel to $1 on fisher. The royalties revenue to the Province on the total take of furs in 1955-56 was $73,096.

The fur resources of Quebec are administered by 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 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 the County of Temiskaming and in 1952 the northern part of the County of Laviolette.

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. The present registered game territory extends over 30,000 sq. miles. More than 400 trappers hold permits for the capture of beaver. In addition, the Fur Service of the Department of Fish and Game administers 320,000 sq. miles of beaver preserves where Indians enjoy free trapping rights.

Steps are being taken also to assist in the re-establishment of marten, the population of which has been steadily decreasing.

Ontario.—The fur and big game wealth of Ontario is administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, under the authority of the Ontario Game and Fisheries Act, the Wolf and Bear Bounty Act, and regulations thereunder.

In the production of wild-caught fur, Ontario leads all other Canadian provinces. In the 1955-56 season wild fur taken in Ontario was valued at almost $3,000,000 and included pelts of 113,200 beaver valued at $1,386,700. Other important species in order of decreasing total value were mink, muskrat, otter, fisher, raccoon, weasel, marten, red fox and lynx.

The high production of wild fur in this Province is attributed to the efficient system of fur management now in effect. Throughout most of the chief fur-producing areas all trappers—the majority of whom are Indians—are holders of registered trapline licences. Each trapper is registered with the Province as the sole permittee on a defined trapping area. Thus competitive trapping has been almost entirely eliminated in all but the primarily agricultural areas and the Department is in a position to set quotas to restrict the annual