

Rec'd JUL 12 1922

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS

CANADA

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

FUR BRANCH

FUR PRODUCTION OF CANADA

Season

1920-21

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Published by Authority of the Hon. J. A. Robb, M. P.,

Minister of Trade and Commerce.

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OTTAWA

1922

NOTE ON THE FUR TRADE IN CANADA.

It was fur trading which led to the early colonization of Canada. The first explorers returning to the old world carried with them the pelts of fur-bearing animals obtained from Indian trappers, and the desire to gain control of this trade led to the formation of companies and associations which, in return for certain privileges in connection with the trade, agreed to promote colonization in the new country. The first company chartered to trade in furs was formed by a number of merchants of France in 1603. The first trading post was established at Hochelaga in 1611. Exploration of the northern and western parts of Canada showed that the territory abounded in wild life, and in 1670 an English company - the Hudson's Bay Company - was chartered to trade in furs, and built its first trading post on Hudson Bay. Other posts were soon erected and their establishment was continued until their locations extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The first Canadian company to trade in furs was formed by a number of Montreal merchants in 1783. In 1821 all fur trading companies of British North America were united under the Hudson's Bay Company.

Raw furs are the chief commercial product of the wild life of Canada, and as such represent the only economic return from hundreds of thousands of square miles, constituting perhaps half the area of the Dominion.

Commencing with 1881, records of the value of production of raw furs in Canada were obtained in the decennial censuses. In 1880 the value of pelts is shown to have been \$987,555, and in 1910 to have been \$1,927,550. In 1920 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics commenced the annual collection of returns from fur traders, and for the season 1919-20 the value of pelts purchased from trappers and fur farmers is shown to have been \$21,387,005. The figure for 1919-20 should not be taken as representative of the value of an average year's production, as abnormally high prices were paid for pelts during the early part of that season. For the season 1920-21 the total had dropped to \$10,151,594.

In 1667 exports of furs to France and the West Indies were valued at 550,000 francs. In 1850, the first year for which trade tables of the Customs Department are available, the value of raw furs exported was 19,395; in 1920 the value was \$20,617,291, and in 1921, \$11,711,981.

In all provinces and territories of the Dominion regulations governing the taking of fur-bearing animals are in force, and many kinds are protected during certain season of the year. In cases where special protection is necessary to avoid extermination of the species, the killing of the animals is prohibited for a period of years.

As settlement has extended, the numbers of wild fur-bearing animals have decreased, and this has led to the breeding of fur-bearing animals in captivity. Success has already been attained in the raising of the fox, mink, skunk and raccoon. Experiments are being made with the marten, fisher, beaver, muskrat, and opossum. Karakul sheep, from the young of which is obtained the valuable fur known as Persian lamb, are also being successfully raised in Canada. The total value of pelts sold from fur farms in Canada in 1920 was \$388,335, comprising \$373,140 for silver fox pelts, \$11,111 for patch fox, \$3,349 for red fox, and \$735 for mink. The value of live animals sold from fur farms in the same year was \$763,221, comprising- \$750,123 for silver foxes, \$12,095 for patch foxes, \$818 for red foxes, \$150 for mink and \$35 for raccoons. The value of live foxes exported from Canada in 1921 was \$297,132.

NOTE - In fourth paragraph, third line, read 219,395 in place of 19,395.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Canada

FUR BRANCH

OTTAWA

Dominion Statistician, R.H. COATS, B.A., F.S.S.

FUR PRODUCTION OF CANADA, SEASON 1920-21

P R E F A C E

The report of the fur production of Canada is prepared from data obtained as follows: from each fur trader is received a report annually, showing, by provinces, the kind, number and value of pelts purchased from trappers and fur farmers, and similar particulars regarding pelts purchased from other Canadian dealers. Only the information given under the first of these headings is used in compiling the report, the other data being required to prevent duplication.

Grateful acknowledgement is made of the courtesy of the Provincial Game Departments in furnishing to the Bureau lists of the licensed fur traders.

R. H. COATS,

Dominion Statistician.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics,

Ottawa, February 17, 1922.

FUR PRODUCTION OF CANADA, SEASON 1920-21.

The total value of fur production of Canada in 1920-21 is shown to have been \$10,151,594, as compared with \$21,387,005 in 1919-20, a decrease of \$11,235,411 or 52 per cent. The pelts of the fur-bearing animals taken during the season numbered 2,936,407, a decrease of 663,597 or 18 per cent. Measured by the value of pelts, the six principal kinds were beaver, \$2,686,472; muskrat, \$2,505,375; marten or sable, \$1,081,871; mink, \$968,582; white fox, \$741,551; and silver fox, \$432,130. The highest average value per pelt is shown by silver fox with \$151. Blue fox is second with \$76, followed by fisher or pekan with \$58, cross fox with \$51, white fox with \$34, and white bear and otter, each with \$24.

The provinces showing production valued at over a million dollars were Ontario \$3,048,815; Quebec \$2,061,853; Northwest Territories \$1,153,840; Alberta \$1,087,164; and Manitoba \$1,055,865.

The total values of the fur production of the provinces are shown, in order of value, in Table I; the kind, number, total value and average value of pelts, by provinces, in Table II; and average values for the Dominion for the different kinds of pelts for the seasons 1919-20 and 1920-21 in Table III.

I. Total Value of the Fur Production of Canada, by Provinces,
in order of Value, Season 1920-21.

Province	Total Value of Pelts \$
Ontario	3,048,815
Quebec	2,061,853
Northwest Territories	1,153,840
Alberta	1,087,164
Manitoba	1,055,865
Saskatchewan	717,149
British Columbia	507,134
Prince Edward Island	256,137
Nova Scotia	112,948
Yukon Territory	78,189
New Brunswick	72,500
Total	10,151,594

II. Kind, Number, Total Value and Average Value of Pelts of Fur-bearing Animals Taken in Canada, by Provinces, Season 1920-21.

Kind	Number of Pelts	Total Value of Pelts \$	Average Value per Pelt \$ ¢
<u>CANADA</u>			
Badger	1,216	1,176	.96
Bear, black	6,991	88,293	12.62
Bear, brown	795	7,789	9.79
Bear, grizzly	137	3,036	22.16
Bear, white	282	6,943	24.62
Beaver	164,656	2,686,472	16.31
Coyote	14,754	94,498	6.40
Ermine (weasel)	386,034	189,936	.49
Fisher or pekan	4,866	286,461	58.86
Fox, cross	3,100	158,380	51.09
Fox, red	18,137	210,626	11.61
Fox, silver	2,843	432,130	151.99
Fox, blue	121	9,287	76.75
Fox, white	21,416	741,551	34.62
Fox, other	61	258	4.22
Lynx	6,509	150,300	23.09
Marten or Sable	47,292	1,081,871	22.87
Mink	117,561	968,582	8.23
Muskrat	2,015,481	2,505,375	1.24
Otter	10,931	262,670	24.02
Rabbit	6,577	1,449	.22
Raccoon	18,116	55,266	3.05
Skunk	74,972	130,130	1.73
Squirrel, black	72	72	1.00
Squirrel, red	116	8	.06
Wild cat	859	3,284	3.82
Wolf	5,316	50,522	9.50
Wolverine or Carcajou	960	13,344	13.90
Caribou	64	455	7.10
Deer	4,884	7,419	1.51
Elk	16	41	2.56
Moose	980	3,812	3.88
Panther	17	89	5.23
Civet cat	77	17	.22
House cat	198	52	.26
Total	2,936,407	10,151,594	

II. Kind, Number, Total Value and Average Value of Pelts of Fur-bearing Animals Taken in Canada, by Provinces.
Season 1920-21.....con.

Kind	Number of Pelts	Total Value of Pelts \$	Average Value per Pelt \$ ¢
<u>Prince Edward Island</u>			
Ermine (weasel)	604	325	4.53
Fox, cross	217	6,876	31.68
Fox, red	177	1,700	9.60
Fox, silver	1,660	243,694	146.80
Marten or Sable	1	10	10.00
Mink	119	813	6.83
Muskrat	2,770	2,501	.90
Raccoon	27	65	2.40
Skunk	84	146	1.73
House cat	19	7	.36
Total	5,678	256,137	
<u>Nova Scotia</u>			
Bear, black	52	652	12.53
Bear, brown	1	10	10.00
Beaver	63	630	10.00
Ermine (weasel)	12,351	5,506	.44
Fox, cross	99	2,765	25.32
Fox, red	1,338	12,940	9.67
Fox, silver	204	25,731	105.08
Lynx	26	191	7.34
Mink	3,761	22,612	6.01
Muskrat	30,645	29,528	.96
Otter	147	2,665	18.12
Rabbit	501	125	.24
Raccoon	1,047	3,928	3.75
Skunk	1,964	2,885	1.46
Wild cat	245	923	3.77
Wolf	10	54	5.40
Deer	1	1	1.00
Moose	517	1,778	3.43
House cat	79	22	.27
Total	53,051	112,948	

II. Kind, Number, Total Value and Average Value of Pelts of Fur-bearing Animals Taken in Canada, by Provinces,
Season 1920-21.....con.

Kind	Number of Pelts	Total Value of Pelts \$	Average Value per Pelt \$ ¢
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>			
Bear, black	111	1,042	9.38
Beaver	162	2,706	16.70
Ermine (weasel)	11,572	4,491	.38
Fisher or pekan	48	1,519	31.64
Fox, cross	44	1,410	32.04
Fox, red	680	5,484	8.06
Fox, silver	116	11,900	102.58
Fox, white	1	12	12.00
Fox, other	1	40	40.00
Lynx	27	442	16.37
Marten or sable	16	170	10.62
Mink	1,899	12,261	6.45
Muskrat	14,171	20,604	1.45
Otter	78	1,628	20.87
Raccoon	704	3,723	5.28
Skunk	2,113	2,245	1.06
Wild cat	251	915	3.64
Deer	520	571	1.09
Elk	3	9	3.00
Moose	313	1,320	4.21
House cat	28	8	.28
Total	32,858	72,500	
<u>QUEBEC</u>			
Badger	128	203	1.58
Bear, black	1,060	13,840	13.05
Bear, brown	73	938	12.84
Bear, white	35	744	21.25
Beaver	49,009	811,988	16.56
Ermine (weasel)	50,438	26,907	.53
Fisher, or pekan	882	44,230	50.14
Fox, cross	302	16,358	54.16
Fox, red	4,113	43,832	10.65
Fox, silver	192	32,493	169.23
Fox, blue	49	4,154	84.77
Fox, white	6,970	236,162	33.88
Fox, other	22	76	3.45
Lynx	550	12,166	22.12
Marten or sable	10,446	247,326	23.67
Mink	19,061	170,255	8.93
Muskrat	206,987	272,487	1.31
Otter	3,126	89,463	28.61
Rabbit	4,364	1,020	.23
Raccoon	1,450	4,467	3.08
Skunk	12,635	21,587	1.70
Squirrel, red	48	3	.06
Wild cat	306	1,303	4.25
Wolf	649	7,495	11.54
Wolverine or carcajou	11	152	13.81
Caribou	2	4	2.00
Deer	1,242	2,142	1.72
Moose	13	56	4.30
House cat	4	2	.50
Total	374,167	2,061,853	

II. Kind, Number, Total Value and Average Value of Pelts of Fur-bearing Animals Taken in Canada, by Provinces,
Season 1920-21.....con.

Kind	Number of Pelts	Total Value of Pelts \$	Average Value per Pelt \$ ¢
<u>ONTARIO</u>			
Badger	153	137	.86
Bear, black	1,269	15,919	12.54
Bear, brown	50	469	9.38
Bear, white	23	559	24.30
Beaver	83,812	1,322,908	15.78
Ermine (weasel)	59,568	27,268	.45
Fisher or pekan	2,739	162,472	59.31
Fox, cross	284	13,977	49.21
Fox, red	5,965	56,691	9.50
Fox, silver	209	29,322	140.29
Fox, white	236	6,816	28.88
Fox, other	4	76	19.00
Lynx	630	14,302	22.70
Marten or sable	7,199	138,487	19.23
Mink	44,597	330,212	7.40
Muskrat	462,136	688,001	1.48
Otter	4,669	108,962	23.33
Rabbit	1,192	238	.19
Raccoon	12,615	33,423	2.64
Skunk	47,332	82,307	1.73
Squirrel, black	72	72	1.00
Wild cat	8	32	4.00
Wolf	1,174	11,250	9.58
Wolverine or carcajou	14	133	9.50
Deer	3,093	4,632	1.49
Elk	2	2	1.00
Moose	39	142	3.64
House cat	24	6	.25
Total	739,113	3,048,815	
<u>MANITOBA</u>			
Badger	226	207	.91
Bear, black	373	4,862	13.03
Bear, brown	43	467	10.86
Bear, white	16	391	24.43
Beaver	10,656	182,380	17.11
Coyote	1,990	12,964	6.51
Ermine (weasel)	69,664	32,364	.46
Fisher, or pekan	317	21,444	67.64
Fox, cross	232	15,089	65.03
Fox, red	1,250	17,251	13.80
Fox, silver	64	13,467	210.42
Fox, blue	4	265	66.25
Fox, white	84	2,199	26.17
Lynx	991	21,339	21.53
Marten or sable	2,762	65,822	23.83
Mink	14,120	123,872	8.77
Muskrat	396,180	488,844	1.23
Otter	1,489	33,714	22.64
Rabbit	26	3	.11
Raccoon	4	15	3.75
Skunk	3,077	5,574	1.81
Wolf	1,457	11,889	8.16
Wolverine or carcajou	79	1,213	15.35
Caribou	6	24	4.00
Deer	10	10	1.00
Elk	9	14	1.55
Moose	43	182	3.79
Total	505,177	1,055,865	

II. Kind, Number, Total Value and Average Value of Felts of Fur-bearing Animals Taken in Canada, by Provinces, Season 1920-21.....con.

Kind	Number of Felts	Total Value of Felts \$	Average Value per Felt \$ ¢
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>			
Badger	461	401	.86
Bear, black	633	8,107	12.80
Bear, brown	108	969	8.97
Beaver	6,661	115,486	17.33
Coyote	5,007	29,454	5.88
Ermine (weasel)	63,063	30,518	.48
Fisher or pekan	58	3,766	64.93
Fox, cross	313	17,362	55.53
Fox, red	1,316	17,934	13.62
Fox, silver	52	10,561	203.09
Fox, white	66	1,907	28.89
Fox, other	6	17	2.83
Lynx	874	20,918	23.93
Marten or sable	2,600	65,444	25.17
Mink	7,942	72,436	9.12
Muskrat	246,745	295,011	1.19
Otter	364	7,545	20.72
Rabbit	304	33	.10
Raccoon	55	170	3.09
Skunk	3,854	7,006	1.81
Wild cat	6	8	1.33
Wolf	1,239	11,068	8.93
Wolverine or carcajou	70	984	14.05
Deer	1	3	3.00
Moose	5	15	3.00
House cat	36	6	.16
Total	341,839	717,149	
<u>ALBERTA</u>			
Badger	219	202	.92
Bear, black	1,450	18,376	12.67
Bear, brown	201	1,892	9.41
Bear, grizzly	12	186	15.50
Beaver	11,195	194,321	17.35
Coyote	5,904	38,803	6.57
Ermine (weasel)	85,176	45,096	.52
Fisher, or pekan	131	8,687	66.31
Fox, cross	707	37,501	53.04
Fox, red	1,308	21,824	16.68
Fox, silver	129	23,838	184.79
Fox, white	43	1,001	23.27
Fox, other	23	37	1.60
Lynx	2,027	47,116	23.24
Marten or sable	4,253	100,738	23.68
Mink	8,943	90,006	10.06
Muskrat	413,612	437,142	1.05
Otter	392	8,107	20.68
Rabbit	23	3	.13
Raccoon	27	103	3.81
Skunk	3,462	7,286	2.10
Squirrel, red	38	3	.07
Wolf	371	2,930	7.89
Wolverine or carcajou	107	1,527	14.27
Caribou	6	27	4.50
Deer	17	60	3.52
Elk	2	16	8.00
Moose	44	318	7.22
Panther	2	17	8.50
House cat	8	1	.12
Total	539,832	1,087,154	

II. Kind, Number, Total Value and Average Value of Pelts of Fur-bearing Animals Taken in Canada, by Provinces, Season 1920-21.....con.

Kind	Number of Pelts	Total Value of Pelts \$	Average Value per Pelt \$ ¢
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u>			
Badger	24	26	1.08
Bear, black	1,503	18,481	12.29
Bear, brown	156	1,489	9.54
Bear, grizzly	74	1,716	23.18
Beaver	527	9,108	17.28
Coyote	1,817	13,024	7.16
Ermine (weasel)	19,795	9,060	.45
Fisher or pekan	635	40,772	64.20
Fox, cross	275	13,815	50.23
Fox, red	579	9,604	16.58
Fox, silver	68	13,370	196.61
Fox, white	238	7,624	32.03
Fox, other	5	12	2.40
Lynx	1,006	24,318	24.17
Marten or sable	8,844	194,283	21.96
Mink	8,177	53,106	6.49
Muskrat	72,850	73,336	1.00
Otter	497	7,296	14.68
Rabbit	150	25	.16
Raccoon	2,187	9,372	4.28
Skunk	408	954	2.33
Squirrel, red	30	2	.06
Wild cat	43	101	2.34
Wolf	188	1,591	8.46
Wolverine or carcajou	331	4,555	13.76
Panther	15	72	4.80
Civet cat	77	17	.22
Total	120,499	507,134	

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Bear, black	411	5,422	13.19
Bear, brown	39	372	9.53
Bear, grizzly	7	114	16.28
Bear, white	208	5,249	25.23
Beaver	2,571	46,945	18.25
Ermine (weasel)	13,263	8,158	.61
Fisher, or pekan	56	3,571	63.76
Fox, cross	496	26,535	53.50
Fox, red	961	15,932	16.57
Fox, silver	55	8,998	163.60
Fox, blue	68	4,868	71.58
Fox, white	13,778	485,830	35.26
Lynx	196	5,112	26.08
Marten or sable	10,409	253,004	24.30
Mink	8,334	89,063	10.68
Muskrat	156,620	185,156	1.18
Otter	127	2,672	21.03
Rabbit	17	2	.11
Skunk	43	140	3.25
Wolf	174	3,790	21.78
Wolverine or carcajou	184	2,505	13.61
Caribou	50	400	8.00
Moose	1	1	1.00
Total	208,068	1,153,840	

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II. Kind, Number, Total Value and Average Value of Pelts of Fur-bearing Animals Taken in Canada, by Provinces,
Season 1920-21.....con.

Kind	Number of Pelts	Total Value of Pelts \$	Average Value per Pelt \$ ¢
<u>YUKON TERRITORY</u>			
Bear, black	129	1,592	12.34
Bear, brown	124	1,183	9.54
Bear, grizzly	44	1,020	23.18
Coyote	36	253	7.02
Ermine (weasel)	540	243	.45
Fox, cross	131	6,671	50.92
Fox, red	450	7,434	16.52
Fox, silver	94	18,756	199.53
Lynx	182	4,396	24.15
Marten or sable	762	16,582	21.76
Mink	608	3,946	6.49
Muskrat	12,765	12,765	1.00
Otter	42	618	14.71
Wolf	54	455	8.42
Wolverine or carcajou	164	2,275	13.87
Total	16,125	78,189	

III. Average Values of Pelts for the Seasons 1919-20 and 1920-21.

Kind	1919-20 Average Value \$ ¢	1920-21 Average Value \$ ¢
<u>CANADA</u>		
Badger	1.44	.96
Bear, black	14.37	12.62
Bear, brown	14.34	9.79
Bear, grizzly	20.80	22.16
Bear, white	31.77	24.62
Beaver	25.30	16.31
Coyote	17.35	6.40
Ermine (weasel)	1.25	.49
Fisher, or pekan	84.43	58.86
Fox, cross	63.81	51.09
Fox, red	22.29	11.61
Fox, silver	246.46	151.99
Fox, blue	69.82	76.75
Fox, white	39.92	34.62
Fox, other	14.38	4.22
Lynx	24.75*	23.09
Marten or sable	32.73	22.87
Mink	13.48	8.23
Muskrat	2.54	1.24
Otter	26.15	24.02
Rabbit	.39	.22
Raccoon	6.56	3.05
Skunk	3.63	1.73
Squirrel, black	1.59	1.00
Squirrel, red	.22	.06
Wild cat	*	3.82
Wolf	15.69	9.50
Wolverine or carcajou	21.01	13.90
Caribou	10.91	7.10
Deer	2.32	1.51
Elk	3.10	2.56
Goose	5.14	3.88
Panther	6.59	5.23
Civet cat	.50	.22
House cat	.47	.26

*Wild cat included with lynx in 1919-20.

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