

seventeen thousand skins are often procured. The fur of the sea otter, though the most valuable fur traded, is very difficult to obtain. The animal ranges along the seacoast between California and Alaska, and appears to be a connecting link between the true seal and the land otter. It is generally caught in nets or speared by the Indians in the sea. Nearly all the sea-otter fur goes to China, and a good skin is worth about \$200.

The coarse fur of the wolverine or American glutton is used mostly in the manufacture of muffs and linings, and is of comparatively little value. Only a small exportation—about twelve hundred skins yearly—is made by the company. Some years ago the caprices of fashion introduced the fur of the skunk into popular use, and for a few seasons the traffic in that odorous peltry was enormous. Now, however, its use is almost wholly abandoned, and only about a thousand skins are yearly collected. The Indians generally shoot the skunk, and always skin it under water.

The skin of the bear—black, brown, and grizzly—is always in demand, and is used for innumerable purposes. The number of bears killed annually is not easily determined, but, at a safe average, it may be estimated at 9,000. The greater part are killed in winter, during their period of hibernation. An immense business is also carried on in rabbit fur. Besides the hundreds of thousands of rabbit skins exported by the company, there are sold annually in London about 1,300,000 skins which are used in the fur trade. The natives of the territory manufacture large quantities of these skins into