

frequents streams and water-courses, and feeds upon fish, crabs, etc. The Indian hunter catches it with a steel trap, baited generally with fish. The trade price is about fifty cents a skin. About 250,000 skins are exported, the majority of which ultimately go to the continent of Europe.

The raccoon is widely scattered over the territories of the company, about 520,000 skins being purchased and exported every year. The raccoons are generally shot, but a few are taken in steel traps. The fur is not very valuable, being principally used in making carriage-rugs and in lining inferior cloaks and coats.

The most valuable fur traded by the company is that of the black and silver foxes. There are three species of fox found in the territory—the black or cross, the silver and the red fox. The two former are considered to be only varieties of the latter ; as in any large collection of skins every intermediate tint of color, changing by regular gradations from the red into the cross and from the cross into the silver and black, may be found, rendering it difficult even for the trader to decide to which of the varieties a skin really belongs. The Indians also assert that cubs of the three varieties are constantly seen in the same litter. The silver and cross fox skins bring from \$40 to \$50 each ; the red fox is only worth about five to eight shillings. About 50,000 red foxes, 4,500 cross, and 1,000 silver are annually exported. The silver fox fur is almost entirely sold to Chinese and Russian dealers.

To illustrate the difference in the trade in beaver now as compared with what it was before the introduction of silk in