

METHODS BY WHICH FUR STATISTICS COULD BE OFFICIALLY COMPILED

*Dominion Statistician Shows
How Details of Fur Trade
May be Included in An-
nual Census of Production.*

IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

Before the National Conference on Conservation of Game Fur-bearing Animals and other Wild Life, held in Ottawa this year under the direction of the Commission of Conservation, in co-operation with the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection, Mr. R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician and Chief of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, gave an address on the subject of "Fur Statistics," in which he indicated methods whereby statistics of fur resources might be secured. Mr. Coats' address, which is to be published by the Commission of Conservation in its forthcoming report of the conference, is reproduced below, in part, as follows:—

"I am grateful for this opportunity of saying a few words to your conference on the subject of Statistics, because I hope you may be able to help us in a difficulty that confronts us at the Bureau of Statistics. The difficulty is in connection with fur statistics. We have organized, during the last eighteen months, a census of production for Canada, which we call the Census of Industries. It is to be on an annual basis, and is to be as comprehensive as we can make it, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, and the various branches of manufacture. It has been a rather large undertaking to organize, because we hoped to work in close co-operation with the various Governments, Dominion and Provincial, which have regulative functions in different sections of the field. For example, in dairy statistics. Until the last two or three years, we had no less than eleven departments collecting statistics, the Bureau of Statistics, the Dominion Dairy Branch, and the nine provincial dairy branches. We could not collate the statistics of the several branches, because they were all compiled by different methods and covered different aspects. To-day we are doing this work as follows: First, we have united upon a form. The Bureau of Statistics prints it; a sufficient number are then sent to each provincial department, which collects the data through its field officers, who are, of course, excellently qualified for that function. The resulting schedules are sent to my office for compilation, for we have about \$100,000 worth of machinery and a large compiling staff, which can handle such work expeditiously. We immediately sent back the result to the provinces for use in any way they may wish. We publish a report for the whole of Canada; it is edited by the Dairy Branch, though finally sent out by the Bureau.

"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.

"The existing Canadian statistics of raw furs are in five areas, namely: (1) those of the decennial census; (2) those shown in certain sections of the annual industrial census; (3) those of the Indian Department; (4) exports and imports; and (5) those of certain provincial departments.

"(1) *The Decennial Census.*—This return shows the number and value of the different kinds of furs taken in the several provinces during the year pre-

INLAND REVENUE		
ACCRUED DURING		
MONTH OF JUNE		
The Inland Revenue Department issues the following Unrevised Statement of Inland Revenue accrued during the Month of June, 1919.		
Source of Revenue.	Amounts.	Total.
Excise.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Spirits.....	419,143 35	
Malt liquor.....	2,696 00	
Malt.....	190,044 12	
Tobacco.....	2,425,650 88	
Cigars.....	99,771 26	
Manufactures in bond.....	10,512 90	
Acetic acid.....	395 58	
Seizures.....	13,136 63	
Other receipts.....	2,771 46	
Total Excise Revenue.....		3,164,122 18
Methylated spirits.....		39,476 69
Ferry.....		
Inspections of weights and measures.....		
Gas inspection.....		
Electric light inspection.....		
Law stamps.....		891 30
Other revenues.....		3,573 03
War Tax.....		1,378,025 42
Grand Total Revenue.....		4,586,088 62
The total amount of revenue collected during June, 1918, was		2,993,630 95

ceding the census. The statistics are obtained as follows: In the settled districts a return is obtained by the census enumerator from every farmer, showing the number, kind, and value of forest animals taken on the farm. For the unorganized districts a return is obtained from the several fur-trading companies, showing the number, kind, and value of raw furs (also fish) purchased from individual Indians; at the same time, the number and kinds of furs captured by individual Indians living on reserves are obtained through the Indian Department, these being checked against the fur-traders' returns to prevent duplication. The total capture in 1910 showed a value of approximately \$2,000,000, divided among forty-one kinds of furs, and representing about 1,200,000 animals. The rise in prices would perhaps double the above values to-day.

"The most obvious defect of this inquiry is its infrequency, which renders the results of secondary value as a commercial guide, and also limits their usefulness in the study of problems connected with the increase or decrease of wild life.

"(2) *The Industrial Census.*—Two of the 450 sections of the annual industrial census throw light on the output of raw furs, namely, the sections on fur-dressing establishments, and (2) establishments for the manufacture of hats, caps, and fur goods. Each establishment is required to answer upward of 100 questions on various details. One of these groups of questions is 'Materials used'; a second is 'Products'. The chief raw material of fur-dressing establishments is raw furs and the product is dressed furs. Similarly, for hat, cap, and fur manufacturing establishments, the items 'Furs and skins, raw,' and 'Furs and skins, dressed,' occur under the heading 'Material used,' whilst under the general heading of 'Products,' men's fur and fur-lined coats, ladies' fur and fur-lined coats, fur caps, fur hats, muffs, stoles and other neckwear, fur or fur-lined gloves or gauntlets are included. There is also an item requiring a return of receipts for custom work on the remodelling and the repairing of furs.

"The statistics for 1917 show that an insignificant quantity of raw furs was consumed in the twelve establishments

engaged in the dyeing and dressing of furs in Canada, most of these concerns doing custom work only, though the dressed product was valued at over \$1,000,000. In hat, cap, and fur establishments (numbering 253) \$2,596,332 worth of raw furs and \$2,482,027 worth of dressed furs were used, the product of fur goods being valued at \$9,767,872. "The above record of furs consumed in manufactures, of course, does not show the different kinds of furs or the number of fur-skins. As it includes, also, a considerable quantity of imported furs, it throws little or no light in itself on the total value of the native raw fur product from year to year.

"(3) *Indian Department Statistics.*—The Indian Department maintains a record of the amounts earned by Indians on reserves in hunting and trapping. In 1917 this was over \$900,000. This, however, does not include the product of the 'Treaty No. 8' Indians or represents only about 20 or 25 per cent of the product of all Indians.

"(4) *Exports and Imports.*—The Canadian import classification shows the following items under the heading of furs:—

	Calendar year 1917.
1. Astrachan or Russian hare skins and China goat skins, plates, rugs, wholly or partially dressed but not dyed..	\$ 118,666
2. Fur skins, undressed, the produce of marine animals	2,928
3. Fur tails in the raw state	144
4. Fur skins of all kinds, not dressed in any manner.....	2,810,171
5. Fur skins wholly or partially dressed	638,853
6. Hats, caps, muffs, tip-pets, capes, coats and cloaks of fur and other manufactures of fur ..	475,479
The export classification has four items:—	
1. Furs dressed..	\$ 97,627
2. Furs undressed ..	6,721,141
3. Furs or skins, the produce of fish or marine animals	46,353
4. Fur, manufactures of ..	33,635

"No quantities are recorded of either imports or exports, and, as will have been seen, only limited distinction is made between the different kinds of furs.

"Ordinarily, if one knows the imports and exports of an article and also the consumption in manufactures, one can deduce domestic production by adding exports and consumption and subtracting imports. In 1917, if one adds the exports and home consumption of raw furs, and deducts imports, one obtains a result of about \$6,500,000 as the value of the production of raw furs in Canada. There are elements of vagueness in this that render it an unsatisfactory statistic; as a reflection of the product of wild life it would require discounting by the value of the product of our fur farms, which, in some years, runs between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. This would bring it somewhere in the neighbourhood of the 1911 census returns reckoned at present prices.

"(5) *Provincial Statistics.*—Certain of the provinces publish statistics, but methods differ and it is impossible to collate a Dominion total. Those of Nova Scotia and Quebec seem to be the best as specific statements of furs taken from year to year.

THE REMEDY.

"The remedy lies in instituting a direct annual record of fur skins taken. This could probably be best achieved by Dominion and provincial co-operation, according to some such plan as the following:—

"It is understood that raw furs are dealt in under license of the provincial authorities. If the provincial authorities would supply annually to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics a list of the names and addresses of those to whom licenses have been issued for the purchase of raw furs within their respective province, the Bureau would undertake to circularize each licensee and obtain from him full details of furs purchased. The large trading companies, who operate outside of provincial boundaries, would, of course, be included, such as the Hudson's Bay Company, Revillon Freres, the Northern Trading Company, Edmonton; the Bryan Company, Edmonton; W. Gordon, Fort McMurray; and Colin Fraser, Fort Chipewyan. Confirmatory information might be obtained from the boards of trade at Edmonton and Vancouver. The Indian Department figures could be collated, and so also could the figures derived from the enforcement of royalties by provincial departments. The operations of fur farms could be obtained as a separate inquiry, necessary if we are to thoroughly distinguish the products of our wild life.

"This would not enable an exact return by provinces to be given, as there may be instances of skins being purchased by dealers from individuals in another province, but it would be approximately correct provided care were taken to eliminate resales and all other trading between dealers. The export and import figures and the statistics of the consumption of raw furs in fur-dressing and fur-manufacturing establishments would be useful as a check.

WHAT TILLAGE WILL DO FOR ORCHARD

The success of an orchard project in British Columbia demands that thorough tillage be practised until such time as the trees are well established. Surface tillage conserves the moisture of the winter and spring months for the use of the trees during the period of growth and seasonal fruit development. An Experimental Farms bulletin states that tillage aerates the soil aiding chemical and bacterial action in plant food production. The tillage operations aid in the disintegration of the soil particles that carry the food elements. Tillage destroys many insect pests and fungus spores, thereby reducing greatly the insect and fungus injury.

In the arid sections, tillage destroys the soil fibre and reduces the vegetable matter or humus making agent. With the fibre or vegetable matter gone, the soils become more difficult to till and poorer in nitrogen.

Tillage practice has a big balance in its favour and is the practice of the most successful orchardists.

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