

Fox (white).....	10,257
Fox (blue).....	1,440
Fox (kitt)	290
Lynx.....	14,520
Skunk.....	682,794
Marten.....	98,342
Mink.....	376,223
Beaver.....	104,279
Musquash.....	2,485,368
Extra black Musquash.....	13,944
Wolf.....	7,156
Wolverine.....	1,581
Bear (all kinds).....	15,942
Musk ox.....	198
Badger.....	3,739
Ermine.....	4,116
Swan.....	57
Rabbit.....	114,824
Hair seal (dry).....	13,478
Sable.....	3,517
Fox (grey).....	31,597

It will be seen by those who have a knowledge of the great value of these rich northern furs, a large proportion of which may be presumed to have come from the Mackenzie Basin, how large and important that trade has been, and it is expedient, that, without unduly interfering with the rights of settlers or the usual privileges of Indians, this great fur trade should be fostered and even made a source of direct revenue to the Dominion.

The Right Reverend Bishop Clut, in his evidence called attention to the damage to this interest caused by the use of "poison" which is strychnia of the most powerful kind, in the capture of such animals as the fox or wolf. He deprecates its use, first on account of the danger to those using it and from the fact that it caused useless destruction, inasmuch as the foxes and wolves that swallow the frozen bait have time to run and die far beyond where they may be found and in the case of other animals for which it is not intended, it destroys directly by eating the bait, and indirectly by the eating of the animals which have been poisoned by it.

Again there is great danger of some species of fur-bearing animals becoming extinct by the greater ease in their capture, such as the beaver, which many years ago became almost extinct in the United States when fashion necessitated the exclusive use of its fur in felt and other hats, and more recently the same prospect of extirpation threatened the mink which now threatens the south sea or fur seal; these considerations pointing to the expediency of the Government making a measure of protection a source of revenue by the leasing of certain fur districts with a limitation as to the catch of certain kinds of its furs.

Of the fresh water food fishes of the region, Back's "Grayling," an excellent species not prevalent elsewhere, seems to be found everywhere in its rivers, and even west of the Rocky Mountains, but the staple product of its lakes and large rivers, seems to be whitefish of great weight and excellent flavor, and trout often reaching forty pounds in weight, and evidence goes to show that the farther north the greater the yield of fish till the quantity becomes enormous. As an illustration the following is given from the evidence of Prof. Macoun, who quotes Sir John Richardson to the effect that one of the early overland Franklin expeditions took fifty thousand white fish on a north-eastern arm of Great Bear Lake, and Sir John Richardson also states that the great lake trout swarm in all the northern great lakes.

In regard to the salmon fisheries, it would appear from the evidence that salmon are abundant in the rivers and along the coast of the north-west side of Hudson's Bay as well as in the rivers of the northern shores of the continent. Your Committee consider it advisable that means should be adopted to ascertain more accurately