

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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SKINS VALUED AT \$4,500,000
SHIPPED FROM ALASKA IN 1929

Skins of fur-bearing land animals to the number of 297,448 and valued at \$4,513,863.76, were exported from Alaska in 1929, a report from the Alaska Game Commission to the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture shows. This is \$215,226.63 more than the amount of the 1928 sales, although 38,629 fewer furs were exported. The larger return during 1929 resulted from increased market value of the individual furs. The report is based on statements that fur shippers are required to file with the agents of the transportation companies handling the shipments, or with postmasters in case shipments are made by parcel post. These in turn must forward the statements to the Alaska Game Commission.

Red-fox skins, to the number of 21,023 brought a return of \$1,042,740.80; blue-fox skins, 7,976, brought \$808,208.08; white-fox skins, 12,179, brought \$733,784.75; mink, 26,693, brought \$552,586.50; and lynx, 7,575, brought \$462,832.50. The number of muskrat skins shipped in 1929 exceeded by far those of any other species. A total of 190,377 muskrat skins brought a return of \$194,184.54. Only 1,547 beaver skins were exported in 1929 because there was no open season on beavers.

The kinds of skins of which there was a notable increase in number exported during 1929 over the number for 1928 are as follows: Red-fox, 5,384 increase; white-fox, 7,646; lynx, 2598; mink, 5,658; and weasel (ermine), 7,214. Skins of other species showed somewhat of a decrease.

The report also notes that more than 34,000 seal skins were taken on the Pribilof Islands under the supervision of the Department of Commerce, and netted a gross return of \$721,000 to the United States as its part of the proceeds.

A summary of the information gathered by the Alaska Game Commission appears in the following table:

<u>Kind of Fur</u>	<u>Number of Skins</u>	<u>Average Value</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Bear			
Black or glacier	491	\$ 4.85	\$ 2,381.35
Polar	48	50.00	2,400.00
Beaver	1,547	26.25	40,608.75
Coyote	480	20.50	9,840.00
Fox			
Red	21,023	49.60	1,042,740.80
Cross	3,109	96.62	300,391.58
Silver	1,008	125.00	146,000.00
Black	61	55.00	3,355.00
White*	12,179	60.25	733,784.75
Blue*	7,976	101.33	808,208.08
Hare	401	.50	200.50
Lynx	7,575	61.10	462,832.50
Marmot	361	.50	180.50
Marten**	276	30.00	8,280.00
Mink	26,695	20.70	552,586.50
Muskrat	190,377	1.02	194,184.54
Otter	2,943	31.58	92,939.94
Squirrel	1,317	.10	131.70
Weasel (ermine)	17,467	1.74	30,392.58
Wolf	688	41.55	28,586.40
Wolverene	873	19.95	17,416.35
Totals	296,895		\$ 4,477,441.82
Pribilof Islands (foxes only)			
White	9	61.78	556.02
Blue	544	65.93	35,865.92
Grand totals	297,448		\$ 4,513,863.76

* Not including pelts from the Pribilof Islands.

** No open season -- trapped 1922-23 season.