It is interesting to note that the history of Canada has been profoundly influenced by the habits of an animal which fittingly occupies a prominent place on her coat of arms. The beaver, it was of dominant importance in the beginnings of the Canadian fur trade — (Because of this I would like to refresh your memories of this busy little animal).

Humorous descriptions of the beaver are found in early French accounts. Le Clerc wrote "the beaver is of the bigness of a water-spaniel. Its fur is chestnut black and uneven white but always very soft and requisite for the making of felt. — The color varieties is largely the result of climate, becoming darker in the more northern latitudes."
As with other animals, the fur is much thinner and poorer in Summer.

The fur of the beaver, like that of the other animals may be divided into two parts; the guard hair, up to two inches in length, and the underhair or fur, at most one inch thick. This is the part unusually suitable for the manufacture of felt and felt trousers.

The animal weighs from thirty to sixty pounds. This meat is agreeable, although fat and oily, the tail a delicacy. The animal's pelt weighs one and one-half to two cbs. The beaver is a scavenger. The young are born in May and average from 2-5 in diameter. They mate at two years. A beaver colony has generally about nine of varying ages. It is estimated that the beaver population increases by about 20 per cent per year, and that previous to the coming of the Europeans the total population of North America was 1,000,000. As you are aware, it does not hibernate but makes elaborate
Preparation for winter quarters, tents are built
surrounding water supply, caches for wood storage
which is their chief fuel, and their lodge
made from logs of wood and mud.

The simple weapons of the Indians were not made
for the long winter season. But with the coming of the
Europeans with more and guns, the Indians had to
renounce their former methods. Their houses were
made of logs and the water came
with the introduction of the Equtities, part of which
Amuru became the necessity of furnishing meat, wood and
water went west to tap new areas.

The fur trade problem was now one of
organization — rnusciliated by the transportation
of supplies and fur over greater distances
in this movement the railroads of the heart area
were of primary importance and occupied a vital
place in the economic development of railroads
with Amuru.

Let us touch on this first map of the Forties
The new early French fur trade along the seacoast has limited, being secondary to the fishing industry. Along the St Lawrence, Cartier tells us trading was not at 1534, he describes being on this first journey in canoe - two fleets of Indian canoes totaling forty or fifty. They were laden with furs and after bartering back and forth with Cartier's men. Gift, stripped naked, going if they could he back next day with hom fur. At this time - the beaver was held in no very high esteem, for its use in hat making was not yet developed, therefore the trade was now in fancy fur or pelts valued because of their beauty and value. This kind of trade was slow and still incidental to fishing - This was the 15th half of 16th century. By the end of this century a revolution had occurred and the architectural Indians of the Huron - Iroquois family had been driven out of the St Lawrence.
Vally, apparently by hunting Indians, the cause of this revolution, historians tell us, are difficult to determine, but the enterprising Becky tells her Beavers---the fashion of felt was on, and the real fur trade was begun---

These Hunting Indians used the beaver for food and clothing. In fact, they wore no other clothes but a moose skin or beaver robe. The rapid development of trade with these Indians was dependent on their methods of treating the fur and on the character of the felling process---the pelts were taken by the Indians in their prime and the inner side scraped and rubbed with the manner of certain animals. After this treatment, each pelt was trimmed into rectangular shape and from five to eight were put together with moose sinews into robes which were worn (by the Indians) with the fur next the body. The scraping of the inner side of the pelt uncovered the deep roots of the long
The early French fur trade along the seacoast was limited, being subsidiary to the fishing industry. Along the St. Lawrence, Cartier tells us trading in a Gut or Mias manner began with the Indians around 1534. He describes taking on this first journey in canoes—two fleets of Indian canoes totalling forty or fifty. They were laden with furs and after bartering back and forth with Cartier's men, left stripped naked, garments they would be back next day with more furs.

At this time the beaver was held in no very high esteem, for it was but making was not yet developed, therefore the trade was in furs or pelts valued because of their beauty and texture. This kind of trade was slow and still incidental to fishing. This was the 1st half of the 16th Century.

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Valley apparently by hunting Indians. The causes of this revolution, historians tell us, are difficult to determine, but one enters. Busy little her Beavers –! The fashion of felt was on! and the new fur trade was begun –

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guard hair, and with wearing; this hair
drawn out, leaving the fur—when constant
wearing for fifteen, to eighteen months the skin
(the 'deirne skin' I mean) became well greased
pleased and yellow in color, and the fur downy.
It was this fur which was most valuable to the
fish-making industry especially suited to the
setting process—
The relationship between the French and the hunting
Indians seems to have been friendly. They fought
with them against their enemies the Southern or
agricultural tribes, one Jesuit chronicle of 1611 says:
"They stay overnight in the sun, we move about with them
and live among them without arms and without fear
and as has thus far appeared without danger. The
mountain men's similar and
continuity arose partly from trade and
The savages, who had melted copper, iron hoops
work, vegetables nor manufactured articles of any
kind used to the French for these, giving in return
the only thing of value they possess, - namely, food. As one of their songs is put, “In truth, my brother, the Beavers does everything to perfection. We make for our Better, axes, knives, knives, and give us drink and food without the trouble of cultivating the ground.” For both of these tribes, then, there was a metal implements much used without direction and the beavers, practically, or terminated forcing the trade to push on to newer territories. Shifting the span of transportation necessitated the forming of an organization with capital to understand the expense of maintaining distant trading posts with the necessary food and equipment. (The story of these organizations such as the Hudson Bay Co. is in a story in itself either romantic or economic. As a matter of fact, it was the first bank in North America. Also the power and influence of these companies held important place in the fight for supremacy and partition between the French and English - and their traders needed satiate judgement and course
in diplomacy to handle the different warring tribes of Indians—
Swedish like to trade to grow the kind of equipment these companies love to procure.

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That was back at the end of the 18th century, but with the coming of the Railroad the
people went through a change over few years. Together with
these came fishing, playing an important part; mining and
agriculture still in the far northern districts. Transportation remains dependent on
the rivers and is consequently distinctly
seasonal in character—Travel during the winter
months is extremely limited and expensive.
It is estimated that the cost of carrying mail
between two ports, say 150 miles (two men and
a dog team) is about 75c. Bags are carried on
are the skids and harnesses. The unit of
Travel is 40 - 50 miles a day. The long
winter night and the difficult road of
dry driving restrict the numbing hours.
In looking at a map of Canada, it is hard
to comprehend its partners in the Hudson Bay
region and northwest Territories — yes this is
indeed a frontier yet the Machine age too
had its influence. Aside from gasoline engines
and trains, the community lives as well on
transportation. Private telephones are owned by
the companies. Postal Communications limited
to restricted mail and letters brought in once
or twice during the winter, has been supplemented
with the development of the radio. Radios help
the community.

Improvement in transportation and communication
materially altered the problem of supplies and
provisions. In the agricultural districts to the
southeast tremendous increases in the production
of food stuffs and improvements in methods of
So as far as frontiers go - there doesn't seem to be any anymore - at least geographical ones, there still seems to be new fields to conquer - in our cultivated farms. To acquiesce for a moment, Prince Edward Island may still claim their Silver Foxes to be the finest - but the products of our New England and New York State farms are certainly of a low quality. As with the experimenting in dyes when new farms are treated one night, it still pioneering to the core.

An example of real pioneering in brought close to home in the two Rutgers graduates Cohen and Kettleson, who learned nicotine in their ventured on the Farmingdale - Lakewood road. They did not see why Monmouth county could not raise mink - despite theCutting of their nighborn Farmers - and raise mink they have. The breeding not being difficult in fact the
return has been more than 100% profit. The chief difficulty, being when one of the mink escapes from its cage and taking the neighboring chickens. The result — the once fine felt returned quickly

farmer across the bank of a short gun and

But to sum up the Canadian Fur Trade

History seems to show it as a retreat in the face

of settlement. It has been affected and

influenced in all important ways of the civilization.

It has always been a concrete example of the

vital system —

It represents a history of contact between two

civilizations —

And it gave life and maintenance to thousands

of its people —