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ASHBROOK ENTHUSIASTIC OVER  
LEIPZIG FUR-TRADE EXPOSITION

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Frank G. Ashbrook of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who was Commissioner General representing the United States at the International Fur-Trade Exposition and Congress in Leipzig, Germany, in May, and at the International Rabbit Breeders' Congress, which also met at Leipzig in August, returned recently, enthusiastic over the significance of the meetings. "The Fur-Trade Exposition was the most complete exhibition of its kind ever staged," said Mr. Ashbrook, who is in charge of the Division of Fur Resources of the Bureau of Biological Survey.

"The whole history and progress of the fur industry was beautifully illustrated," Mr. Ashbrook continued. "Every phase of it was represented in some manner, from the production and conservation of fur animals to the finished garment. Paintings, sculpture, decorated china, and books also brought to the attention of the public the artistic side of the industry. The educational possibilities of the exhibition were unlimited. One could have spent many days in inspecting the exhibits of the various countries and then he would not have made an exhaustive study, for the field covered was indeed very large.

"The International Hunting Exposition held in connection with the Fur-Trade Exposition was also a splendid affair. An excellent collection of hunt-

ing trophies, including antlers and heads, was exhibited, together with guns, fishing tackle, and sport paintings, and many members of European royal families, and famous hunters contributed. An international judging contest was held for the purpose of determining the best specimens of antlers of the various game animals. All sorts of interesting attractions were developed for the purpose of attracting a vast public to the exposition. The European countries were well represented but economic conditions prevented the United States fur trade from participating as extensively in the event as had been expected.

"Too much praise and credit can not be given to the splendid efforts of Mr. Paul Hollender and other members of the German committee for creating an attraction that brought to the attention of a world public/ of the fur trade in commerce and demonstrated forcibly all phases of one of the world's oldest industries. This grand event is now fur history, but the credit of making it so is primarily due to those men who were interested and foresighted enough to understand the importance of staging the First International Fur-Trade Exposition and Congress."

The exhibit by the United States was prepared by the Office of Exhibits of the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Bureau of Biological Survey and with the Bureau of Fisheries of the Department of Commerce. The exhibit portrayed not only the production and utilization of fur products, but also the conservation of fur-bearing animals. Lisle Morrish, in charge of exhibits of the Biological Survey, and Charles H. Cross and Herbert F. Marti, of the Office of Exhibits, also attended the Fur-Trade Congress, as did Edward M. Ball of the Bureau of Fisheries.

Mr. Ashbrook expressed gratification over the reception of the exhibits from the United States, which he said was well expressed in comment by the publication, The British Fur Trade, which said, "The exhibit of the United

States Government excellently fulfills the object for which it was formed, and almost anyone giving serious thought to its organizers' motives will see that in its composition it carries out their intention. The United States had admirably given expression to its concern for a future supply of raw material for the fur trade, and to its practical appreciation of the fact that conservation and fur farming (which, of course, includes the provision of material for re-establishing diminished species) are but different sides of the maintenance of the supply of furs for the world's fur traders."

In July and August Mr. Ashbrook visited most of the countries of western Europe, studying the latest developments in matters relating to the production and utilization of furs, and returning to Leipzig for the Rabbit Breeders' Congress, where rabbit breeders from Belgium, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Soviet Russia, and the United States gathered.

"In Europe the production of rabbits for meat and fur," Mr. Ashbrook comments, "is further advanced than that of other fur animals, and the organizations representing this industry enjoy better cooperation of breeders. Although fur farming has developed to a marked degree in Norway, Sweden, Germany, and France, it can not yet be considered as providing an important source of supply for raw furs. Propaganda is still being circulated in European countries for the sale of breeding stock, and some breeders seemingly ignore the fact that fur animals are raised primarily for the pelts produced. The United States leads in the production of fur from animals raised in captivity and in certain research activities that are of vital importance to a constructive expansion of the industry."