

Furs.—Business in raw furs continues dull. Receipts of native pelts are small owing to the deep snows and bad roads in the interior, and large lots of Southern coon, bought in St. Louis a month ago, are still undelivered. The London March sales, the largest of the year, are scheduled as follows: Hudson Bay Co.'s sales, from March 14th to 17th; Lampsen & Co.'s sales from 14th to 25th. We repeat quotations for prime pelts as follows: Beaver, \$5 to \$6.50 for large; medium ditto, \$4 to \$4.75; No. 1. choice bear, \$15 for large, \$10 for medium, and \$6 for small; badger, 30 to 50c.; fisher, No. 1, dark, \$5 to \$6; ditto, brown, \$4 to \$5; pale ditto, \$3 to \$4; red fox, \$2.25 to \$4; cross fox, \$5 to \$10 for No. 1, as to color; Wolverine, \$2.50 to \$5; lynx, \$4 to \$8 for No. 1; marten, \$2 to \$3 for Ontario and Quebec skins; fine B.C. and Northwest pelts bring higher prices; mink, \$2 to \$4 for No. 1; fall rats, 8 to 17c.; winter ditto, 15 to 20c.; otter, \$8 to \$12; fine Labradors and Northeastern would bring \$12 to \$20; coon, \$1.50 to \$2.50 for No. 1 black, and from \$1 to \$1.75 for No. 1, dark; prime skunk, \$1.50 for No. 1, all black; short stripe, \$1.10; long stripe, 60c.; and broad stripe, 20c.

Dry Goods.—It was feared that the bad stormy weather of the 1st of March would affect attendance at the spring millinery openings, but the trade report visiting customers quite as numerous as last year from Eastern Ontario, from this Province, and as far east as Dalhousie and other New Brunswick points. Travellers' letters still speak of considerable inconvenience and delays in covering their routes, and orders are not so large as at this time a year ago. Probably country dealers are inspired to buy carefully, as it is reported that a good many goods will be carried over, owing to the unfavorable trading conditions of this winter. In values of textiles there is nothing specially new, except that the Russo-Japan war may effect supplies of Russian hemp, and a further stiffening in linens is looked for.

Groceries.—Sugars are decidedly stronger, and a further advance of 5 cents a cental has been established in all grades of refined, making the present factory quotation for standard granulated, in barrels, \$4.05, with yellows ranging from \$3.45 to \$3.85. A very active market is reported in New York, with a further advance there yesterday, on which, however, local refiners have not yet acted. Molasses is easy, with the general jobbing quotations 34c. by the single puncheon, and 36 and 37c. in barrels, and half-barrels. A late cable quotation from the island is 19½c., equal to about 26½c. laid down here. Dried fruits are in little request. Canned very firm in price. Tea importers report quite a fair demand from jobbers, and values are well held; a late cable from Colombo advises an advance of a half-penny in Ceylon black.

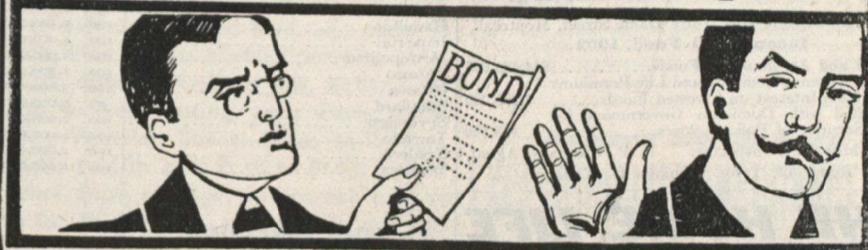
Hides.—Receipts of calfskins are now fairly free, but former quotations continue. There was some talk of reducing quotations for sheepskins, on account of grubby conditions, but it was finally decided to maintain the figure at 75c. each. New lambskins are beginning to come in, and bring 10c. each. Beef hides are unchanged, at 8c. for No. 1, per pound.

Metals and Hardware.—Conditions in these lines are not materially altered. Merchants say their lives are made miserable through inability to get goods forward, and trying to pacify irate customers. In prices there are no changes of moment. Quotations in Summerlee pig-iron for spring delivery

range about \$20 for No. 1, and \$19 for No. 2; Carnbroe, \$17.50 to \$17.75. Iron from the New Londonderry furnace is said to be showing good quality, and some few moderate sales are reported in this market at \$19, but the bulk of this brand, it is calculated, will be sold in the Lower Provinces. Bars are being generally sold at \$1.75. Plates and sheets are changing hands at unaltered figures. There is some scarcity of large sizes of tinned sheets used for cheese vats, maple sugar evaporators, etc. Ingot tin, lead and copper show no special variation. Sisal and Manilla cordage are advanced half a cent.

Oils, Paints and Glass.—Orders are not coming in so freely as last year at

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RECORD FOR 1903.

Policies Issued and Taken '03.	\$4,278,850	Interest Earned, 1903.....	\$110,428
" " " " '02..	3,098,450	" " " " 1902.....	84,676
INCREASE 38%		INCREASE 30%	
Business in Force Dec. 31, '03..	\$18,023,639	Surplus to Policy-holders, 1903....	\$473,963
" " " " '02..	15,289,547	" " " " 1902....	226,508
INCREASE 18%		INCREASE 109%	
	\$2,734,092		\$247,455

Average Interest Earned, SEVEN per Cent.

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