

With regard to muskrat, it is feared that the large supplies of last season's skins coming forward will check any advance. Good colored racoon will likely be in fair demand for Russia, but commoner will undoubtedly be lower. Skunk will about hold its own. Mink will likely decline, as the European markets are not prepared to use it in any quantity, even at the reduced prices of the October sale. Marten has shown more steadiness of late, but a large collection will be offered by the Hudson Bay Company next spring. Beaver will likely remain about stationary, also red fox. Lynx much neglected. Black bear shows evident signs of weakness, and the long run of high prices will hardly continue.

#### ENGLAND'S MEAT SUPPLY.

The committee of the House of Lords which has been considering the question of marking the foreign meat imported into England has reported. They say that the United States is the principal exporter of meats to England, sending 343,573 tons to this country per year. New Zealand is next with 43,127 tons. Then comes Australia with 19,653 tons, and Canada with 18,651 tons. The report is by no means unfavorable to foreign meat, for the evidence given before the committee showed that a large quantity of the English meat is inferior to that imported from the United States and the colonies. It was advised that dealers in foreign meats be registered, and that a notice to the effect that they sell foreign meat be affixed to their shops.

#### STYLES IN MANUFACTURED FURS.

In Toronto, and, indeed, throughout Ontario, the popular fur garment is the cape. Large sales of these goods have already been made, and with a cold or even moderately severe winter, an excellent trade may be expected. The capes are made from almost every kind of fur, Persian lamb, seal, sable, nutria, beaver and a host of others. But none, perhaps, are more popular than Alaska sable and Greenland seal. Capes are made in much longer lengths this year than last, the majority of them being made from twenty to thirty inches long; some are even longer. The collars are to a large extent plain, but many fancy collars are also seen.

This season fur trimmings are in good demand. In New York both hats and bonnets are trimmed with mink, sable, beaver, and otter fur. The mink tails make pretty aigrettes when stiffened with wire, while other furs are used to edge velvets or cloth points, giving the needed high effects. Dresses and jackets are also very pretty when trimmed with furs. In Toronto mink and beaver appear to be most in favor as trimmings, but Alaska sable, silver racoon and a score of other furs are used.

Styles in fur caps vary but little from season to season. This year the wedge shape is again popular, and is, perhaps, most in demand. The furs used in the make-up of caps are exceedingly varied. In men's, however, beaver and seal are popular, while in ladies' caps, although seal appears to be the prime favorite, many made of beaver and Persian lamb are worn. The sale of these goods, of course, will depend, to an enormous extent, upon the weather which we are to have during the coming winter months.

Although capes are so popular, there are always some who prefer sacques. These are made in almost the same lengths as last year. Seal is the fur most used, but some jackets

are made of Persian lamb, beaver and other furs. One wholesale fur house being asked, "How is trade?" replied, that in spite of the cry of hard times, it had taken orders in one November week for seventeen seal jackets, varying in price from \$175 to \$275 each. Fur collars do not meet with the favor they once received, but not a few ladies' long blizzard collars are still worn. These for the most part are made of beaver and nutria. Storm collars, if made for particular capes, then vary as the material of which the capes are made.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON FLEET.

The British Columbia salmon fleet is this year the largest that ever sailed from Victoria and the Fraser river for foreign ports with canned salmon. The following vessels have already gone forward: "Routenbeck," 38,000 cases; "Sirene," 56,558 cases; "Grandholin," 31,707 cases; "Jessie Stowe," 30,000 cases; "Ladstock," 35,773 cases; "City of Carlisle," 37,381 cases; "Formosa," 38,182 cases. The aggregate value of these seven cargoes reaches \$1,336,962. There are yet three more ships to sail before the fleet is complete; they are the "Harold," which will carry about 40,000 cases; the "Candida," about 5,000 cases, and the "Premero," taking 20,000 cases, the whole fleet carrying about 384,345 cases. The total pack of 1893 is said to be the heaviest since 1889, and reaches a total of 1,635,879 cases, of which 609,950 cases were packed in British Columbia, 637,120 cases in Alaska, and 365,700 cases on the Columbia river.

#### THE INDIAN TEA CROP.

The growth of Indian tea production and consumption within a few years has been very remarkable. In a single November week there was offered on the London market 46,812 packages of Indian and 18,400 packages Ceylon and Java teas, as compared with only 27,774 packages of China teas. This tends to show the relative scale of demand. The China teas are mostly sought now for export, and the home consumption is more largely of Indian. It appears that the Indian crop of Indian tea for the crop year 1893-4 is likely to be about 126,000,000 pounds, as against 113,000,000 last year. This increase is expected mainly in the Assam and Darjeeling districts, for there is no increase but a decline in the Cachar and Sylhet. The following comparative statement of the estimated and actual yields of the Indian tea crops for the season 1893-4 is from English mail advices:

	Revised estimates 1893-4. Pcu ds.	1892-3. Pounds.
Assam .....	53,298,839	46,307,348
Cachar and Sylhet Darjeeling, Terai and Dooras....	30,819,303	38,855,063
Chittagong and Chota-Nagpore..	26,850,389	24,492,851
Dehra Doon, Kum- son and Kangra	1,311,242	1,031,621
Private and na- tive gardens..	4,500,000	4,000,000
Totals .....	126,779,773	113,686,883

The Assam and Darjeeling kinds show the increase.

#### FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A Belleville egg dealer has shipped 300,000 dozen eggs to England this season.

The fishermen along the St. Clair River report very poor success in herring fishery this season.

The Boston Herald says that two carloads of potatoes have been seized by the customs officers, on a claim that they were smuggled from New Brunswick.

The largest cargo of grapes ever exported from Almeria, 23,884 barrels, arrived in New York recently.

Mr. J. M. Scarlett, who has been in the grocery business for some time in South London, has gone to Windsor to open in a new line of business.

On Nov. 17th, the North Smith Dairy Company put into operation the first co-operative creamery established in the county of Peterborough. On the second day of operation the receipts of milk were 6,330 lbs., which produced 326 lbs. of first-class butter—a trifle less than 20 lbs. of milk to a pound of butter.

The farmers around Lacombe, N. W. T., have arranged to form a creamery company with a capital stock of \$2,500. This creamery will be known as the Maple Leaf. It is expected to open a factory in May next.

A Grand Manan, N.B., report says: The herring and pollock fishing seasons are practically over for the year. The catch of herring on this island is below the average, and only about one-third the usual number of smoked herring were put up this year. Pollock and other line fish, too, are not up to the average catch, the herrings running larger and the pollock smaller than for a season or two back. Herrings are sold at 9c. per box; pollock at \$2 per hundred weight.

From the latest returns made by the Agricultural Department of the Province of Nova Scotia, we learn that the potato crop of the province has been a most excellent one, giving an average of 103 per cent. The apple crop, however, was not as successful, suffering heavily from the severe gales of August, and averages but 59 per cent., or a little over half a crop. From the port of Yarmouth 6,380 bushels of blueberries, valued at \$10,659, were shipped during the season.

The J. L. Grant Pork Packing Company, Ingersoll, on Thursday last slaughtered 1,018 hogs.

From Moncton, N.B., comes the following: The prospects are that smelt fishing will be more vigorously prosecuted than ever this winter at different points on the north shore. The fishing on the Bay Chaleur will be a new departure, and over one hundred privileges have been disposed of. Inspector Chapman was in Buctouche on Friday last and sold one hundred and fifty privileges.

A considerable quantity of Quebec creamery butter has been sold in Halifax and St. John during the week.

The first shipment of butter ever made to the Japanese empire from Manitoba left last week for Yokohama via Vancouver and the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company. It consisted of ten cases of fancy creamery.

At San Jose, California, up to November 12th, the total eastern shipments were as follows: Green fruits, 18,940,480 pounds; canned fruits, 8,325,165; dried fruits, 30,519,165, apportioned as follows: prunes, 25,049,600; apricots, 3,835,075; peaches, 1,800,615; other dried fruits, 333,875. This gives a grand total shipment of all classes of fruit to eastern markets of 57,784,810 pounds to November 12th.—California Grocer.

The Port of Spain, Trinidad, Commercial Review and Prices Current reports the sale of some Canadian cheese at 15c. per pound, and remarks that it is preferable to Undella cheese, heretofore largely used in the West Indies.