

Fur Trade News.

The Leipzig (German) correspondent of the New York Fur Trade Review writes as follows on October 10. American furs have a slightly better status at the present moment than at the beginning of the summer, but the prospects cannot be considered good, so many Russian, Australian and East Asiatic furs lead in favor. Owing to low values, however, certain American articles maintain their standing. Mink is a middling good article for German use, and has been taken by both wholesale and retail furriers. Mink linings are expected to do fairly well this winter, and if prices remain as at present the demand may be satisfactory next season. Some parcels of skins have been taken for England. Marten has again had a regular sale in European countries; it will doubtless be in demand again next season if prices remain moderate. Stocks in raw musquash are not large. The demand for fine skins is limited, as seal imitations have a slower sale of late. Mink imitations and mink tail imitations are always sold to some extent. All linings of musquash backs, especially the middling and cheaper grades, have sold well, and stocks suited to the purpose have been taken out of the market. Musquash bellies have been used quite largely for the manufacture of capes, but it remains to be seen whether these capes will continue in favor in competition with the new electric French conies. There has been only a limited request for black musquash, belly linings selling better than back linings for Germany and Austria. Beaver has been only in small request, as our furriers found but little use for this fur, and a few skins have been taken for Russia. It is our opinion that this article must be cheaper in the spring. The demand for raccoon has been limited. Some parcels were taken for Russia, and others for dyeing purposes. We think this article would have been better had it not been for the advance in price which occurred in the spring. We anticipate lower rates beginning with next year. Skunk has been somewhat better than earlier in the summer in consequence of higher prices. We do not think the June values should be exceeded in the coming spring, particularly as there are so many imitations in both fine and moderate-priced goods. There is very little demand for American opossum, and very low prices should rule next spring. Turkish and Russian customers are overstocked with red fox owing to the large quantities which were brought forward at the different sales this year, and there is no demand here at the present time. Gray fox has been used for silver blue dyeing, and the result is very good, but the demand is very limited. We do not think an advance in price possible. Blue fox is still cheap, and the low prices have resulted in some sales, with a possibility of further transactions. There has been the usual sale of dark otter, but only limited demand for other grades. The medium and pale colors usually taken for Russia are neglected, and views for next spring are not good. There is no demand for lynx. Some wholesale furriers have attempted to introduce natural lynx backs, but have not met with much success. The supply of nutria, though larger than 1895, is small; prices are high, and large selected skins have fancy values. Owing to the prices and the continued scarcity of skins, buyers have turned their attention to other articles, noticeably natural raccoon. Real chinchilla is in very good demand notwithstanding the high value and though prices for bastard chinchilla are not high, the demand is very fair. Stocks of raw Japanese foxes are not large, and there are no parcels of superior skins on hand. Blue dyed skins have their usual customers in Russia, Ger-

many, etc. The skunk imitations sell fairly well. Japanese marten are in better supply than in the spring, and some of the skins, which are nicely topped, sell well. Chinese mongolian lambs, black dyed, skins and crosses, have sold well to Austria. There has been a very fair sale of Australian opossum in natural brown dyed and sheared dyed beaver color. Russian furs.—Sable has been in favor for Franco, and a large furrier of Paris has purchased parcels of good dark skins, and his lead was followed by other buyers; inferior shades have been dyed, topped, and have met with some demand for Franco and Austria. Ermine has had a continued sale, superior parcels are scarce and prices are firm, ermine tails are very dear. In squirrels, back linings sell slowly, only certain colors being in demand; bellies are more in favor, and there has been some demand for Russian belly sacs, twisted squirrel tails are in good request, but boas are neglected. Black dyed Astrakhan lambs are offered in large quantity, but only in rough skins, and the demand for these is slow; flat moires are in better request, but are scarce and dear, as the Russian collectors refuse to sell moires separately. Ukrainian and gray Krimmer lambs have been exported to Canada at reasonable prices, and half-Persians have been purchased by Austrian and Roumanian dealers. Persian lamb is one of the principal articles here, and the fresh parcels from the Nijni Novgorod fair, which have come from the dyeing, sell fairly well to French, English and American buyers; the supply is rather large and the prices high; those ordering Persian here should name not less than ten or twelve marks as the lowest sort they wish to secure.

The London, England, correspondent of the Fur Trade Review, writing on October 15, says: "The improvement of the fur trade reported in my last letter has been fairly maintained up to the present time so far as the home trade is concerned, manufacturers finding it difficult in many instances to keep pace with their orders, as Manchester, the Midlands, and the Scotch towns show great activity and have placed important orders. Merchants have not as yet felt the full effect of the improvement, as manufactured stocks were of very fair dimensions, some dyed sealskins being steadily consumed at small profit, and the outlook is good for a maintenance of prices at the December sales, subject to the United States taking fair supplies. American marten and mink remain in fashion, and are selling freely. Persian lambs have sold well, and will be much used here. Tibet lambs have been largely used, but the home trade has become staple. A strong demand prevails for electric rabbits, but very great competition among our manufacturers, coupled with a probable further increase in the prices next year, will not tend to keep the article in favor. Bears show some life for the Provinces, while both real and bastard chinchilla, as well as Russian sable, are to be fashionable, the latter article being the rage in Paris."

Unprecedented Snow Storms.

The snow fall for November throughout Western Canada is the heaviest on record in recent years. The majority of the settlers now in the country cannot recollect anything like it. We often have the ground bare until toward the close of the month, but this year snow has been falling almost daily since the first of the month. In the mountains the snow is very deep and railway traffic has been delayed. In the states to the south of us the snow fall has been heavier than it has been north of the boundary, very heavy storms having been reported from Minnesota, North and South Dakota and in the mountains in Washington and Oregon,

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