

In a recent letter, the Chief Commissioner explained that outstanding debts in the District were placed on Inventory at one-half of their value, that being the estimated cost of the goods with charges at which they would have appeared on Inventory if unsold.

He also stated that the sudden decline in the market for Buffalo Robes seriously affected the Balance Sheet of Saskatchewan District, which, at the same time, laboured under heavy opposition from the firm of KEW, STOBART & Co., who established themselves near Carlton, and excited the Robe and Fur Market beyond all reason. At the same time, the inability of the steamer "Northcote," to navigate the Saskatchewan River above the Cole Falls in 1876 greatly increased the expenses of getting the supplies to Carlton, which were rendered too late to be disposed of as intended at the Indian Treaties Meeting, and consequently swelled the Inventories, while, in the meantime, the next Outfit Requisition had already gone forward. These difficulties, in addition to the reduced valuation of the Returns, tended to make the result most unsatisfactory, contrary to the anticipations of Mr. CLARKE.

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT.

Inventory at the commencement of Outfit 1874	...	...	...	...	\$28,208
" close of Outfit 1876	...	...	...	...	43,762
				Increase	\$15,554
Supplies sent out in 1874	...	...	...	...	\$44,818
" " 1875	...	...	...	...	61,253
" " 1876	...	...	...	...	83,972
Goods traded in Outfit 1874	...	...	...	...	\$54,228
				Sales	558
					\$53,724
				Transfers to Districts	12,000
				Leaving for Fur Trade	\$41,724
Goods traded in Outfit 1875	..	...	...	...	\$63,948
				Sales	1,925
					61,023
				Transfers to Districts	17,000
				Leaving for Fur Trade	\$44,023
Goods traded in Outfit 1876	...	...	...	...	\$72,286
				Sales	3,862
					68,424
				Transfers to Districts	21,102
				Leaving for Fur Trade	\$47,322

It will thus be seen that in comparison with 1874, Outfit 1876 had an increased amount of \$6,000 expended for Furs. The principal articles—Beaver, Marten, Mink, Musquash, and Otter—valued at 1876 prices, amount to—

£9,288 in Outfit 1874
7,854 " 1875
8,846 " 1876

or a falling off in the Returns of £442, with an increased expenditure in goods to the amount of about £1,200.