

Northern Furs.

The catch of lynx in this part of the country during the past winter has been altogether unprecedented as well as the prices realized. The catch must have reached twenty or twenty-five thousand. The price has ranged from three to six dollars, while two dollars was always before considered a high price. The large catch and high prices have made the fur hunt and trade very profitable. Lynx, or cats as they are sometimes called, live chiefly on rabbits and increase and decrease in numbers with the latter. It is more than likely that next year's catch here will be very small, as of course the high price has caused them to be hunted with more persistency than ever before, and they are not a particularly difficult animal to hunt and kill. Lynx fur, when plucked, sheared and dyed supplies a very large proportion of the South Sea seal which appears on the market. The coarser hair is made up into felts. It is never sold under its own name, except for overcoats or robes. The Canadian Northwest is the principal source of supply of lynx fur.—*Edmonton Bulletin.*

The Cattle Raising Industry.

The inducements to engage in cattle raising in this country several years ago were so great, says the *Chicago Times*, that eleven companies, with a capital of \$20,000,000, were organized in Great Britain. They now own 672,013 head of cattle, and lease or own 3,319,072 acres of grazing land in the west. In 1885 one of these companies paid dividends amounting to 20 1/2 per cent., but for two years past they have paid only 10 per cent. The rate of return is now very low, and the whole business seems to have suffered a serious deterioration. Of nine of these British-American companies in 1885, one paid 7 per cent., one 6, two 5, one 4, and four paid nothing at all. Last year there were nearly 50,000,000 head of cattle in the country, and of these British companies owned only 672,013, as noted above. The reasons for decline in profits is part due to the action of the President, who obliged owners to vacate public lands and to pay for their grass. Besides, in the year 1885 the yield of calves was behind that of the year before. The chief reason for the decline in dividends is the smaller selling price of steers, the falling off reaching in some cases \$9 a head. The immense profits made at first invited excessive competition, which cut down prices and profits.



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