

## MCKENZIE RIVER DISTRICT.

Inventory at beginning of Outfit 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$23,000
"    close of Outfit 1876	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,000
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Supplies in 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$44,000
"    1875	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53,500
"    1876	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68,000
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Goods traded in 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$43,000
"    "    1875	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72,000
"    "    1876	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72,000
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Value of Beavers and Marten in 1874 at 1876 prices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£9,375
"    "    1875	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,250
"    "    1876	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,500

Accordingly it will be seen that in the Outfit 1876, while the value of the Beaver and Marten obtained was only £1,200 in excess of the year 1874, \$29,000 more were disposed of in goods, or 75 per cent. In other words, quite irrespective of the price, upwards of £5,000 more was given in 1876 for the same amount of Furs, and that on a total amount represented by £8,000 worth of goods. The result of trade in this District has been as follows:—

An estimated Profit in Outfit 1874 of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$35,000
"    "    1875 of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,000
And a Loss in Outfit 1876 of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,500

There is, thus, a difference of \$40,000 between Outfits 1874 and 1876 in respect of apparent profit; and, from the quantity of goods traded in the two Outfits respectively, it would appear that only half of the quantity is due to the fall in the price of Furs, the other half being due to the fact of a larger amount of goods having been disposed of without a corresponding increase in the quantity of Furs obtained. The result of this Department ought to be satisfactory. It is free from competition, and a good result ought to be obtained from it, if Furs are even at a moderate price; while it ought to give a brilliant result if Furs fetch high prices. In 1874, for instance, when prices were high, and when only \$43,000 were disposed of as against \$72,000 in the two succeeding years, the profit in the Country Account was \$35,000, or £7,000, upon stock of goods, including Inventory and the supplies of the year, of £15,000, showing a profit of 40 per cent.

In Outfit 1875, while the valuations had been necessarily reduced, but were still on a moderate scale, the profit was reduced to about £4,500.

In Outfit 1876, when the valuations were low, and nearly approached the market prices here, the loss was £1,000, while \$90,000 had been invested. In this District it is to be observed that while there has been the same amount of increase in the supplies in 1876, as will be found in many other parts, there is this notable difference, that the goods have been disposed of; while in other Districts, the Inventory at the close of the Outfit has proved very much larger than before. But the goods thus disposed of have unfortunately not been disposed of in a remunerative manner, seeing that, as explained before, there has been no increase in the principal articles traded. In his Report on this District, the Officer in charge states that the scarcity of Moose caused starvation among the Indians, and thus almost entirely destroyed the fall hunts. The Returns, he said, compared unfavourably with those of last year. At the same valuations, Outfit 1876 showed a falling off of about \$5,000, as compared with Outfit 1875. On the other hand, \$8,000 of Furs were left behind. In Fort Simpson, owing to the starvation alluded to, the Returns were probably the lowest on record. The Trout Lake Indians, formerly the best hunters, have almost disappeared. The whole band is reduced to 11 men and boys.