

London Fur Sales

The New York Fur Trade Review gives the following report of the recent sales of raw furs in London, which is somewhat more extended than the cable report given two weeks ago in *The Commercial*:

Results at the Hudson's Bay Company's sale: Beaver, 71-2 per cent. lower than January, '97.

Muskrat, spring, 15 per cent. lower than January, '97.

Muskrat, winter, same as January, '97.

Rabbit, 5 per cent. higher than January, '97.

Salted fur seal skins, N. W. C., same as at Messrs. C. M. Lampton & Co.'s sale on December 9; 5,700 skins were withdrawn.

Results at Messrs. C. M. Lampton & Co.'s sale:

Beaver, same as January, '97.

Muskrat, spring, 20 per cent. lower than January, '97.

Muskrat, fall, 20 per cent. higher than January, '97.

Muskrat, winter, same as January, '97.

Black muskrat, 15 per cent. higher than January, '97.

Raccoon, Northern, same as March, '97.

Raccoon, western, 10 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Raccoon, southwestern, and all thirds and fourths, 25 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Skunk, 121-2 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Opossum, same as March, '97.

Mink, last year's, same as March, '97.

Mink, fresh, 20 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Marten, 10 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Russian sable, Yakusky, same as March, '97.

Russian sable, Nikolawsky, same as March, '97.

Russian sable, Amorsky, 10 per cent. lower than March, '97.

Red fox, 121-2 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Gray fox, 15 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Kitt fox, same as March, '97.

White fox, 15 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Black bear, 25 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Brown bear, 5 per cent. lower than March, '97.

Grizzly bear, same as March, '97.

White bear, same as March, '97.

Russian grizzly bear, 10 per cent. lower than March, '97.

Lynx, same as March, '97.

Otter, 10 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Otter, Labrador, same as March, '97.

Wolf, 70 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Wolverine, 10 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Wild cat, 40 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Badger, 40 per cent. higher than March, '97.

Grebe, 20 per cent. lower than October, '97.

Real chinchilla, 10 per cent. lower than October, '97.

Bastard chinchilla, 30 per cent. higher than October, '97.

Tibet lamb, same as October, '97.

Australian opossum, 71-2 per cent. higher than October, '97.

Wallaby, 15 per cent. higher than October, '97.

Wombat, 25 per cent. higher than October, '97.

The next sale will commence on March 14, and the latest date for shipping furs from New York will be Friday, February 25, for cross, silver and blue fox, sea otter, beaver, fisher, otter lynx, wolverine, squirrel, muskox and dry fur seal. The latest date shipping other articles is Tuesday, March 1.

Literary Notes.

The Klondike seems to be the leading theme in the February "Canadian Magazine." J. Gordon Smith contributes a general article on the region; there are some quotations from Mr. Ogilvie's forthcoming book; and Thos. S. Scott, one of the engineers who assisted Major Walsh across the mountains, writes humorously of his "Experiences in the Chilkoot Pass." Some twenty valuable illustrations and maps accompany the articles. There are several other very interesting papers in the number.

An interesting pamphlet has been prepared by Mr. C. C. James, deputy minister of agriculture for Ontario, under direction of the minister of agriculture for the province. The pamphlet gives a description of the country, its resources and development, system of government, system of education, attractions for tourists and sportsmen, minerals, railways, canals and navigable waters, agricultural interests, timber resources, etc. In fact the book is a regular fund of information about the province, in condensed form. Considerable space is devoted to the northwestern mining districts. There are many illustrations, showing comfortable farm scenes, scenery of rock and stream, etc.

The latest winter styles are elaborately illustrated and accurately described in the current number of the *Delinctor*. Prominent among the literary features is Emma Churchman Hewitt's article on household expenses, "Social Life in English Provincial Cities," by Florence Fenwick Miller, is a pleasing analysis of certain interesting environments. Dr. Grace Peckham Murray contributes a paper on "The Common Ills of Life." Mrs. Alice Meynell continues her series of child studies. "Mardi Gras in New Orleans" is described by Frances Courtney Baylor. Those who have followed the fortunes of Olive Raynor by Martin Orde will find a new thrill in his latest adventure—a diamond robbery. In "The Care of Belongings" are many suggestions which will prove of material value to housekeepers. Blue-print Photography is continued by Sharlot M. Hall, and numerous other interesting papers. The *Delinctor* Publishing Co., 33 Richmond street, Toronto.

This well-known quarterly review of the history of our own times, formerly published in Buffalo, N. Y., is now issued by the New England Publishing Co., of Boston, Mass., there being no change in the editorial management. Owing to the transfer, the present number is late in its appearance, but more than makes up for this in the literary and typographical excellence of its contents, in the breadth of its field, which covers all countries and all interests, and in the assurance it gives that the long-recognized high standard of this invaluable publication for accuracy, clearness, conciseness, and impartiality of statement, and for comprehensiveness of grasp of affairs, will be more than fully maintained. It contains more portraits than usual; and maps are more abun-

dant, adding much to the value of the record. No newspaper notice can do justice to the table of contents, which makes the present number, like its predecessors, a complete handbook of the world's history during the quarter. Such a systematic register of passing events has never before been published. It puts the reader in close touch with the progress of the great world around him, widening his view of the incidents and movements that are making history, and deepening his perception of their significance. Specially noteworthy among the articles in this number are those reviewing the Great Coal Strike; the discovery of and rush to the Klondike Gold Fields; the adjustment of the Greco-Turkish question; the Cuban Revolt; the European Alliances; the Tariff, Currency, Belting Sea, and Hawaiian Questions, Etc."

California Raisins.

The New York Commercial Bulletin says: "After a long period of depression, the market for California loose raisins is beginning to show signs of improvement. Liberal consignments to Eastern markets by coast packers have shut off the outlet of the New York receivers to a considerable extent and the resulting competition between sellers here and at out-of-town points has resulted, it is reported, in a demoralized condition, out of which has come no benefit to any one concerned.

The wants of consumption in the east it is reported, have gradually absorbed the supplies of good fruit, but have left a comparative large supply of rain-damaged or otherwise inferior fruits, efforts to sell which have had a depressing influence upon market values heretofore. As the bulk of the good raisins have gone into consumption and the demand for that class of goods is reported to be increasing, a firmer feeling has been developed, though no actual increase in prices is to be reported.

It is reported that there were orders in this market for considerable quantities for immediate delivery, but as buyers and sellers were apart in their view little business resulted. Advances by mail from San Francisco state that there has been some revival of demand, but that prices are unchanged and more or less flexible, owing to the large quantity of low-grade, rain-damaged stock on hand there. Orders from eastern points were reported to be few, but from nearer points the demand seemed to be increasing. There is a movement on foot in California to inaugurate a system of state inspection, which will prevent shipments of the trash which in the past has caused such demoralization of consuming markets."

The department of customs has decided that cards, portfolios, paste-board boxes or other coverings containing cut samples of cloth, edgings, textile fabrics, buttons of various patterns, and other articles being representatives of goods and obviously intended for use only as samples to sell by, and having no commercial value, may be admitted free of duty. The term "no commercial value" does not apply to portfolios, boxes or other coverings, used in displaying samples which are susceptible of being adapted to other use. Samples, such as are carried by commercial travelers, together with trunks and other "packages" containing them, are dutiable, excepting such as are of no commercial value.