

Northwestern Fur News.

McDougall & Secord, of Edmonton, Alberta, write the New York Fur Trade Review as follows regarding the fur trade in the country tributary to that market.

Dear Sir,—As the fur season is now sufficiently advanced to enable us to form an idea of what the catch for the season will be, both in this district and the northern districts of the Peace, Athabasca and McKenzie rivers, we have thought it might interest you and your readers to know what, in our opinion, the prospects are.

Last season's catch of fur in this and the districts above named was phenomenally small, and we do not think that this season's hunt will be much, if any, better, furs of all kinds, except rats, are scarce; the latter are very numerous all over the country, and, in the absence of other furs, are being hunted by the Indians. A first-class Indian or halfbreed hunter considers it rather infra dig. to hunt rats, and generally leaves the killing of them to the old women and young lads.

Foxes of all kinds are scarce—silver foxes, like angels' visits, few and far between. The country for hundreds of miles is infested with mice in incredible numbers, and as the foxes feed on them, the few that there are are not easily tempted by the bait of the hunter. Bears this winter, are a rarity, very few, as yet, having come in, the winter has, so far, been a very mild, open one—barely enough snow to make good sleighing—and consequently very favorable for hunting bears, so it is evident that they have migrated somewhere else. These poor fur seasons are periodic, and do not by any means point to the killing out of the fur-bearing animals.

Rabbits are again becoming numerous all over the country, and next winter we may look for a better catch of all the animals that follow and live on them. The catch of beaver may be quite up to the average, as the hunters will be obliged to hunt them. The winter hunting of beaver is remarkably like very hard labor, and is avoided by the generality of Indians when other fur can be had. The trapping of marten, mink, fisher, foxes, etc., only calls on a hunter to be diligent in walking along his line of traps and keeping them in order; but to break open a beaver lodge in winter is, as Klipping says, another story.

It may interest you to learn how the beaver in this northern country have been cleaned out. In the year 1875-6 there were traded, at the following Hudson's Bay Company posts, the following numbers of beaver (in the Peace river district). Vermilion, 8,000, Dunvegan, 7,000, Battle River, 1,000, Peace River Crossing, 2,000; Little Red River, 3,000, St. John's, 4,000, Hudson's Hope, 3,000, Lesser Slave Lake, 8,000, and the traders got fully 8,000 among them all, making a total of 47,000 in one year. Now we doubt if the trade of the Hudson's Bay Company and traders combined at all the above-mentioned places amounts to 6,000 beaver in a year. In old days, when goods were scarce, the Indians only killed the beaver by trap and gun, and scarcely ever broke their dams, but traders coming into the country with plenty of goods and competing keenly for furs, led the Indians to kill in any way so long as they got the fur, the breaking of their dams left the beaver helpless and unable to escape, and, as a rule, where a party of hunters passed who employed this way of hunting, that country was ruined, as a beaver country, forever.

All our advices from the north agree as to the fur catch being little better this season than last, the small offering of furs by the Hudson's Bay Company is caused, in great part, by the poor returns of the districts we have before mentioned, and we are of the opinion that this winter's trade will not be much of an improvement.

Prices of furs are, as usual, high, considering our distance from market, and, outside of the furs shipped by the Hudson's Bay Company and other dealers, but a comparatively small amount is shipped out by trappers or small dealers.

The Wool Markets.

The situation for Ontario wool is about as discouraging as it has been for many weeks. Holders of the last clip in the country are asking for bids, but local dealers are not inclined to make offers which nearly approach the views of sellers, and are advising in the absence of any demand for export, to wait till March or April,

when a turn in the tide is expected. It is estimated that 1,200,000 pounds of the last Ontario clip is still held in Ontario, or practically the whole of the season's clip, with the exception of what has been sold to the domestic mills. A considerable portion of the last clip now offering was bought at 18c. Buyers in the United States who have been asked to make offers, on ascertaining the value placed upon Canadian wool by holders here, pointed to the fact that a large lot of Canada fleece of the season before last had lately been offering in warehouse in the United States at 23c, duty and charges paid, and it was learned this week that the lot of wool in question, which amounted to 210,000 pounds, has been sold at a rate which makes the price 27½c net to the buyer.

The following extract from a letter written by a Philadelphia firm within the past week will be interesting— "As far as the wool market here is concerned it is worse than it was when I saw you; at that time we were getting fine Territory clothing wools this week at 45c clean; to-day they are only worth 42c. There is so much bankrupt wool floating around at the present time that it is almost impossible to do anything whatever in any straight lots of wool. The London sales have not helped the market the least bit. We have got so much wool here that outside influence does not come to bear. To sell Canadian fleeces here, that is, in this market, they would have to be bought for about 13c, as some large lines of Irish wools, bankrupt stock, have been selling here at 25c per lb., and they were very light in condition, only shrinkable 16 per cent. Yesterday I received a letter from Mazamet saying that the market was firmer, and that prices had advanced. But ten minutes ago I received a cable saying:—'Market decidedly weaker, with a downward tendency.'"—Toronto Globe.

Winnipeg Raw Fur Prices.

Following is a list of the prices now being paid by responsible fur buyers in Winnipeg for consignments of furs from all parts of the west:

	From	To
Badger, prime	25	50
Bear, black, small	4.00	10.00
Bear, black, middling	8.00	12.00
Bear, black, large	12.00	20.00
Bear, brown, small	3.00	8.00
Bear, brown, middling	8.00	12.00
Bear, brown, large	12.00	18.00
Beaver, large	5.00	7.50
Beaver, middling	3.00	5.00
Beaver, small	1.50	2.50
Fisher, according to size and color	4.50	8.00
Fox, silver, according to size and color	50.00	150.00
Fox, cross, according to size and color	5.00	15.00
Fox, red, according to size and color	1.00	2.50
Lynx, according to size and color	1.00	4.00
Marten, large, dark	5.00	10.00
Marten, large, brown	4.50	7.00
Marten, large, light, pale	3.50	4.00
Mink, according to size and color	1.00	2.00
Musquash, winter03	.10
Musquash, spring06	.12
Otter, according to size and color	5.00	10.00
Skunk, according to size and color25	.75
Wolf, timber	1.50	2.50
Wolf, prairie50	1.00
Wolverine, according to size and color	3.00	6.00

The above prices are for prime skins only, and vary according to size and color.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—No. 1 hard closed at 60c in store Fort William.

Flour—Local prices per sack: Patent, \$1.75, best bakers', \$1.65.

Oatmeal—\$1.65 per 50lb sack; patent, retail trade.

Milk—Cream—14c, \$11.50 ton, shorts, \$12.50; \$11.00, delivered to city dealers.

Oats—Carlots on track, new oats, 30¢/32c, according to quality.

Barley—28¢/30c per bushel for feed grades of new, 32¢/33c for malting.

Country Wheat—40¢/53c per bushel, according to grade and freight rate to farmers at country points.

Corn—In carlots, 39½c per bushel of 60lb.

Flax—\$1.25 to \$1.30 per bushel.

Butter—Dairy, 18¢/20c per lb for best grades; creamery, 21c per lb to the retail trade.

Advertise

Businesses for Sale,
Partners Wanted,
Etc., in

The Commercial



"Enclosed please find \$1.50 for advt. in your paper. The result was first class." So writes a merchant who advertised a business for sale in The Commercial. Place for sale or want advts. in The Commercial. It reaches nearly all business people in the West.



OVERALL CLOTHING

Overalls
Pants



Smocks
Shirts

OUR GOODS ARE WELL MADE.
They will please your customers.
You will be pleased yourself.
Send us your orders. Satisfaction guaranteed.

The Hoover Mfg. Co. Ltd.

Maw's Block WINNIPEG.
Bakery Business for Sale.
One of the best bakery and confectionery businesses in the Northwest for sale. Rare opening for a hustler. Capital required, \$1,600.00 to \$2,000.00. Poor health cause of selling. Possession given at once. Write C. O. N., care Commercial, Winnipeg, Man.

To Rent.

TO RENT—BEST STAND IN VIRDEN, known as Joe Merrick's corner, now occupied as general store, or a good general job stock wanted to purchase. W. F. Searth, Virden, Man.

WANTED

A Situation by a Dry Goods Traveller, with eighteen years' (18) connections in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. Can handle any lines in connection with General Dry Goods Trade. First-class references. Address Thos. A. Montgomery, 249 Garry street, Winnipeg, Man.

AGENTS WANTED

Agents wanted for "Life and Times of Queen Victoria." Liberal terms; freight paid, credit given, sample book free, send 20 cents to pay postage. Act promptly, be first in the field. The Bell Company, Dept. D., Philadelphia, Pa.

PARTNER WANTED

A respectable young man, worth \$1,000 to \$1,500, to go into Hotel Business in a most prosperous mixed farming district on the Soo line in Assiniboia. New building just completed. Address G. A. R., care The Commercial, Winnipeg.

TO SELL OR RENT

A good butcher business, 200 miles west of Winnipeg, main line C. P. R. A good town and country trade; also good dwelling house close by. Present occupier going west in the cattle business. Applicant must be of good standing and reliable. Apply N. Y. Z., Commercial Office, Winnipeg.

For Sale.

General Business, thoroughly established. Stock 2,500. Can rent or buy building. On Pembina Branch C. P. R. Address G. E. O., care of Commercial.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that I have decided to change the name of my firm, doing business at Fannyville, Man., from Gullbault & Co. to Vitoire Gullbault. I will assure and pay all the liabilities of the late firm.

Dated at Winnipeg, this 4th day of February, A. D. 1901.

"VICTOIRE GULLBAULT"
Witness—"C. HENRI ROYAL"

Agents Wanted

In every town in Canada to handle quick money-making goods used daily everywhere. Write for particulars.

KARL K. ALBERT

208 McDermott Avenue, WINNIPEG

SET AND CAP SCREWS

We are the oldest, largest and best equipped company in the Dominion manufacturing milled screws. Write for catalogue. The John Morrow Machine Screw Co., Ingersoll, Ontario.

WANTED—Capable, reliable person in every country to represent large company of solid financial reputation, \$336 salary per year, payable weekly; \$3 per day absolutely sure and all expenses; straight, bona fide, definite salary, no commission paid each Saturday and expense money advanced each week. STANDARD HOUSE 334 Dearborn St., Chicago.